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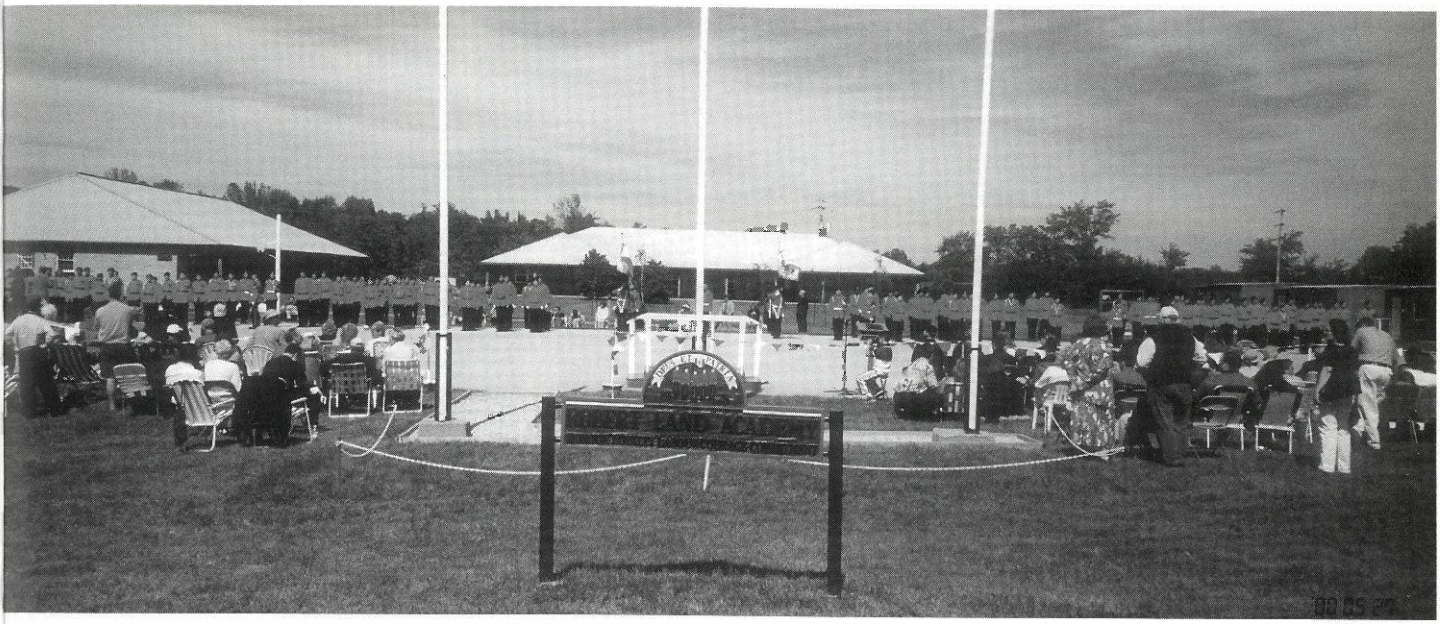

2000-2001

Robert Land Academy

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Wellandport, Ontario
L0R 2J0

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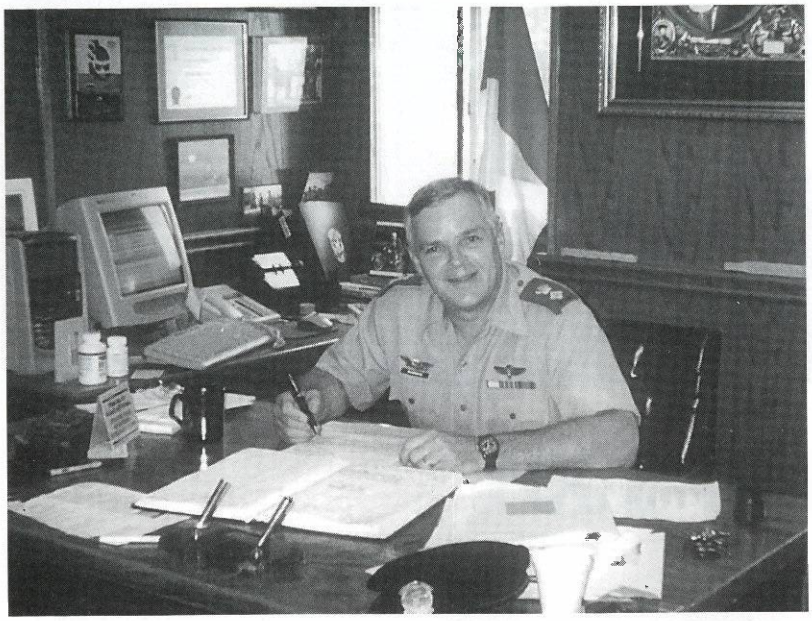
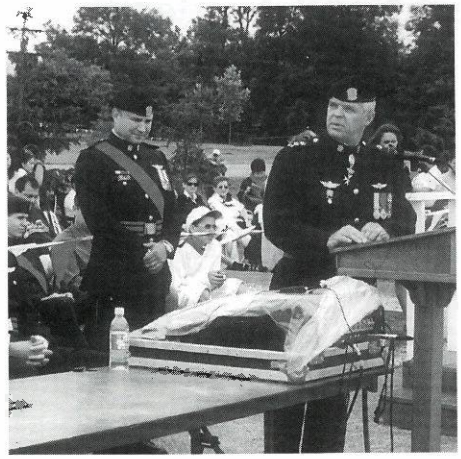
fax: 905 386 6607
www.robertlandacademy.com

Published in Canada
Printed in USA

HEADMASTER
L/Col. G. Scott Bowman
BA, KH, CD, UE



L/Col. Bowman
When not inspecting the academy or talking to the cadets, he is hard at work at his desk in the Administration Building.



Graduation Parade
An inspiring speech from the headmaster, as he addresses the cadets, parents and staff at this year's graduation ceremony.

LEADERSHIP

The Inspection
The Headboy, Sgt. Rasul accompanies L/ Col. Bowman for the inspection of the cadet body.

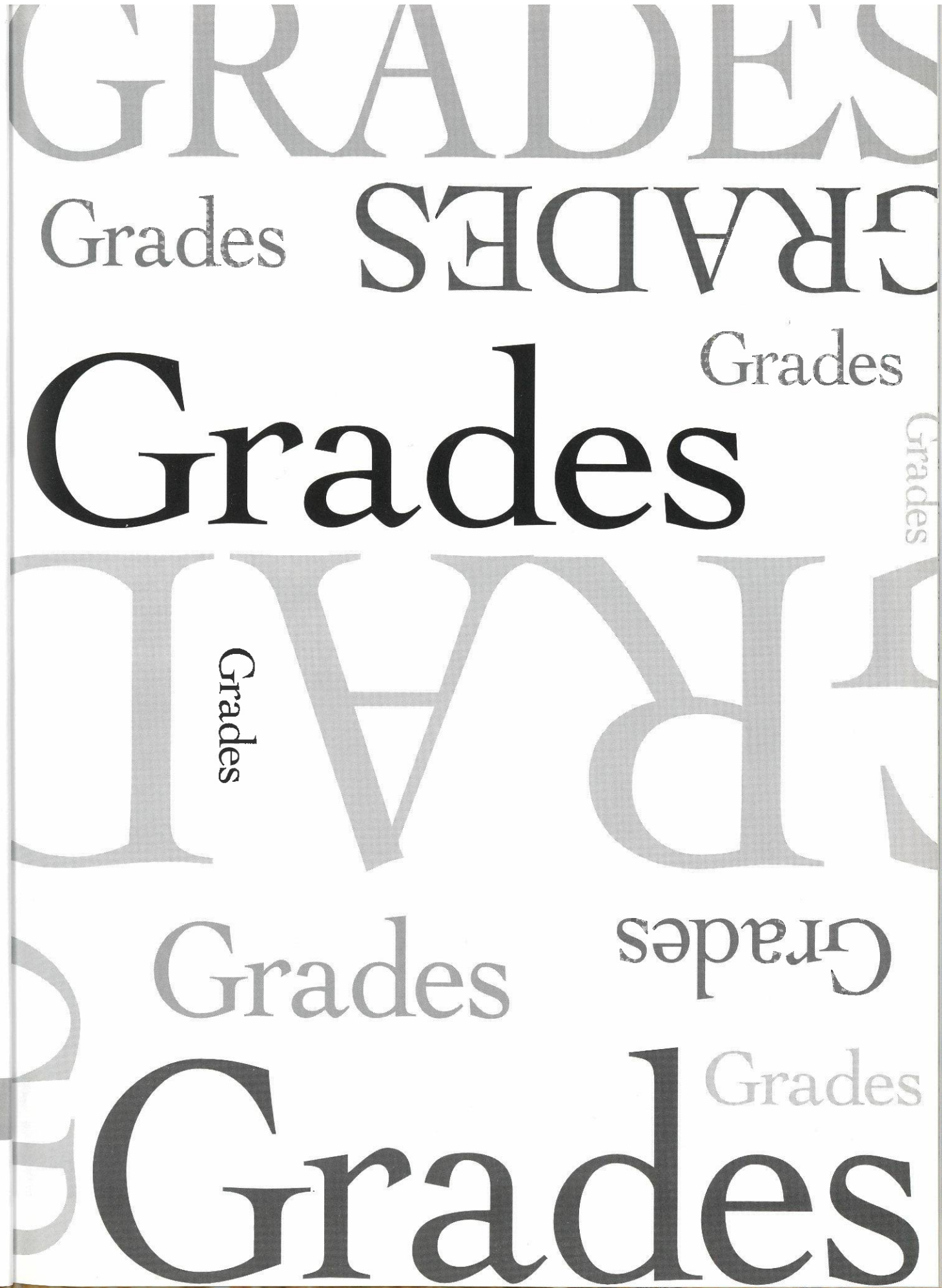
Commanding Officer
Maj. C. Gibson awards Cadet Cook for his participation with the Bounder Company.

Maj. Gibson inspecting the cadets during Graduation Parade.

Cadet Halpert playing the bagpipes, as he marches onto McCrea Square with the band. Cadet Halpert has added a new and exciting dimension to the already excellent. Academy band.

Cadet Halpert of Alpha Company, has the distinction of being the first ever, Academy Piper.

Academy Piper


GRADES
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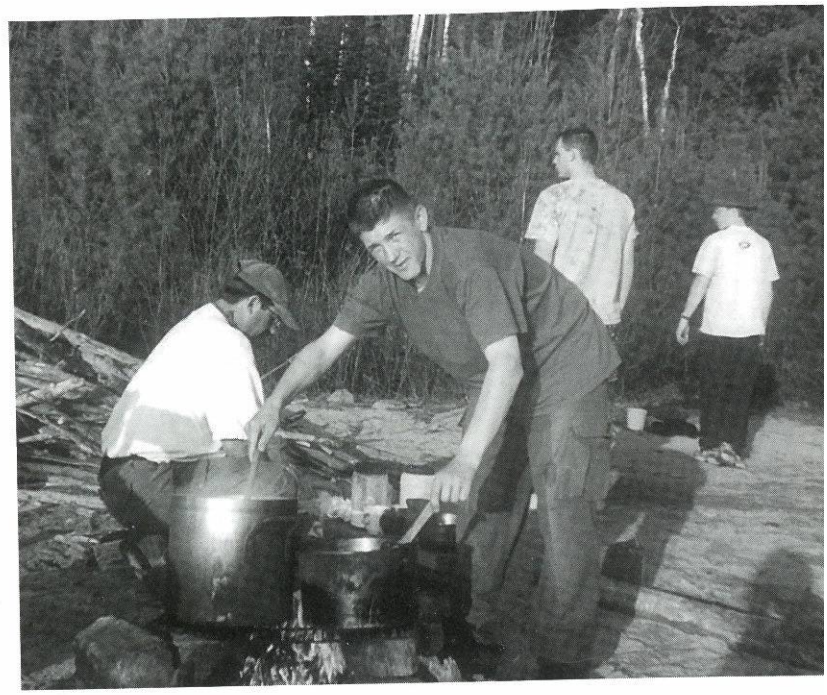
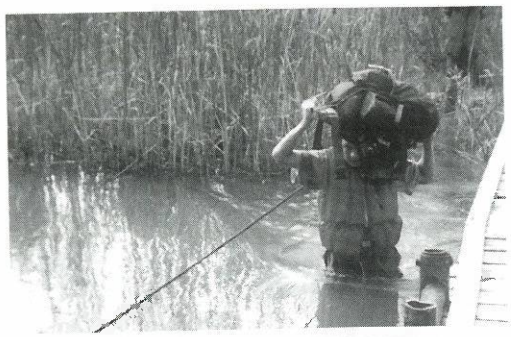
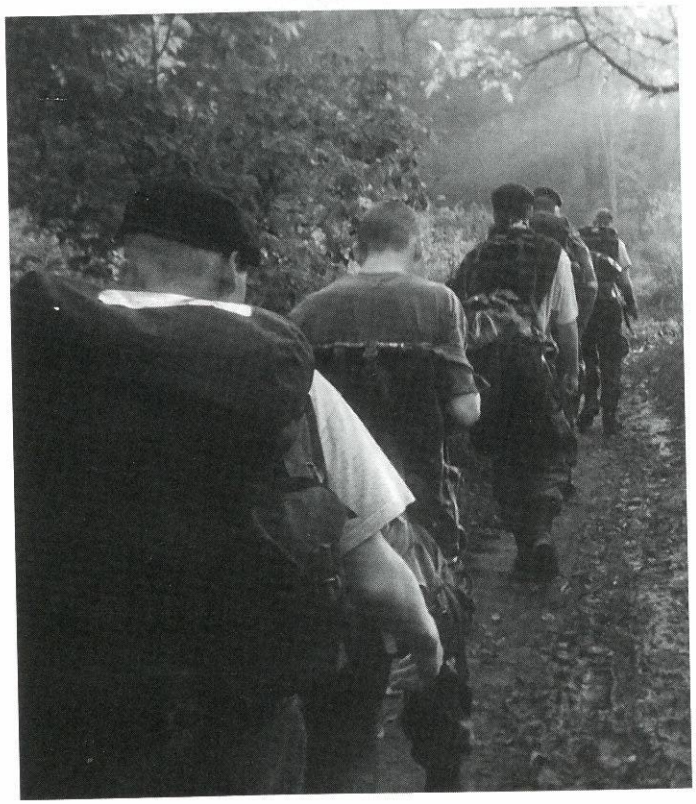
Wilderness Cooks
Cadet Mikhalets assists Capt Erola at the campfire on their canoe trip at Haliburton Forest.



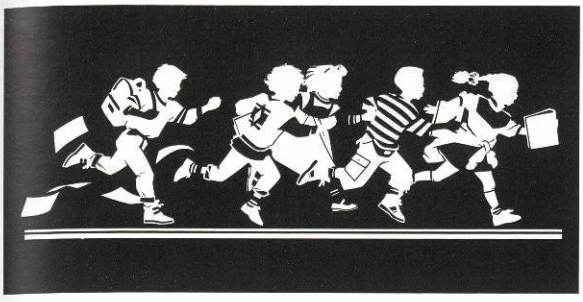
Water Obstacles
A cadet crossing the water obstacle at the Fall Ex.





It's a Long Haul!
The trail seems to go on forever in the early hours of the morning. Cadets on the trails of the Short Hills Provincial Park.

AIRBORNE!
Grade 9s participating in Mock Tower training, at the Parachute Centre at CFB Trenton. Wo Kirby and Cadet Dixon assist Cadet Lynch.

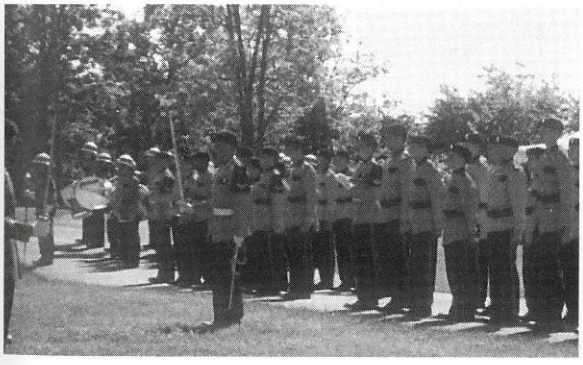


Do You Know These Grads?

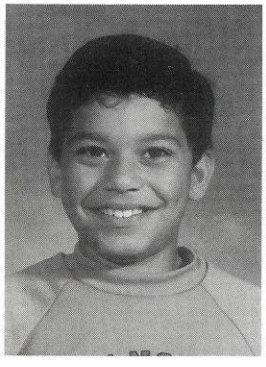
It wasn't long ago that our grads were in grade school.

Do you remember this?

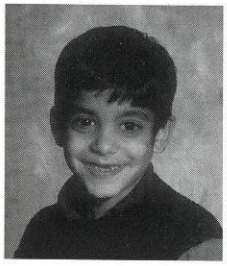
They have come a long way, experienced many challenges and are now ready for post-secondary education or whatever comes their way.



Grads leading the Parade.



Sgt. Rasul
Here is a younger version of our Headboy, Farooq Rasul.
Page 11, position 1.



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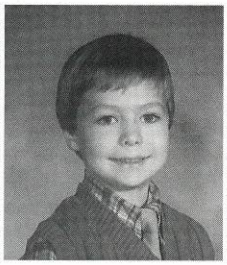

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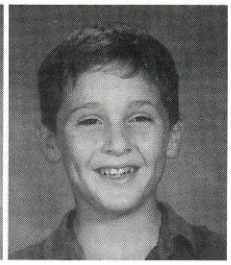

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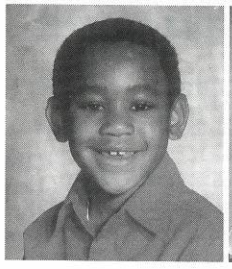

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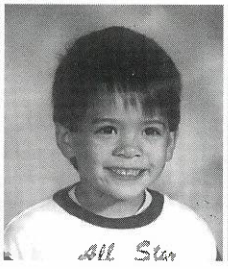

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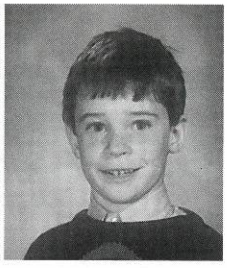

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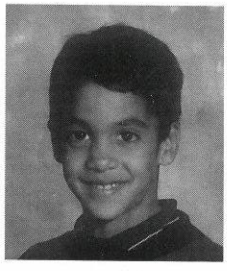

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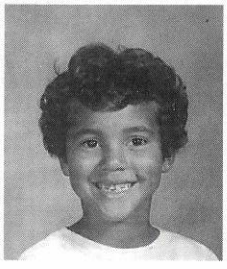

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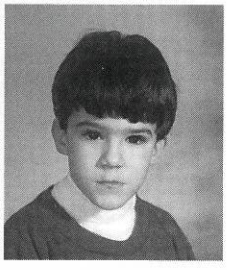

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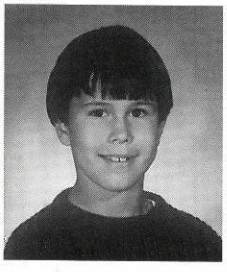

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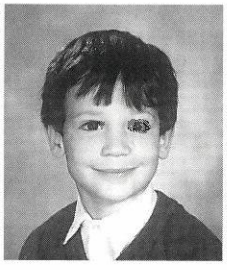

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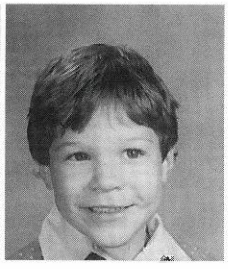

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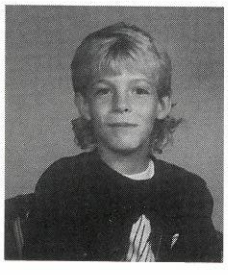

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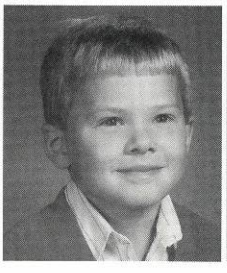

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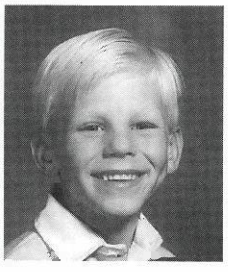

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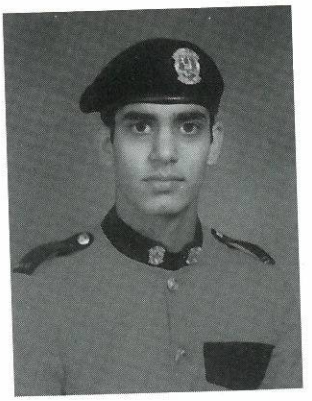
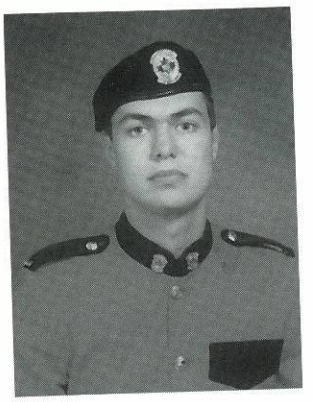
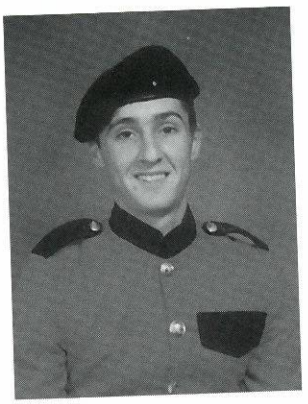
Graduates

A. Kalra





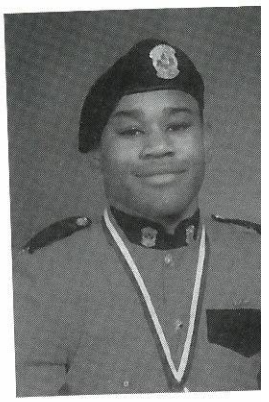
Ryan Blackwell



Aaron Vaszquez

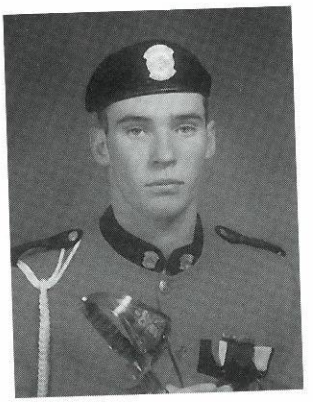
Future Occupation: Private Pilot/ University Graduate
Attending: Florida State University
"I'd like to thank all my friends, Capt. Phelps, 2Lt. Servos, 2Lt. Milliken, and LT. Simmons for all the help they have given me. But most of all, I want to thank my father for allowing me the opportunity to turn my life around adn achieve my goals!"

Jonathan Brown



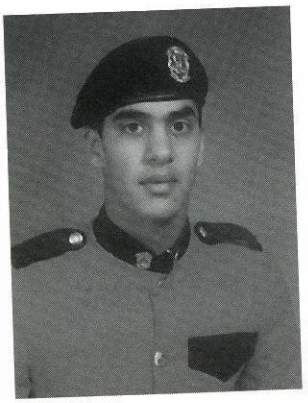
Daniel Church

Future Occupation: Physiotherapy
Attending: University of Toronto



Sean Barker

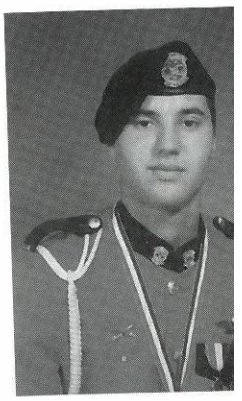
Future Occupation: Business
Attending: University of Ottawa
"Special peppers are aged in oak b
until the passing of years allows th
gain the savory aroma and flav
Tabasco Sauce."



V. Kalra

Ryan Marshall

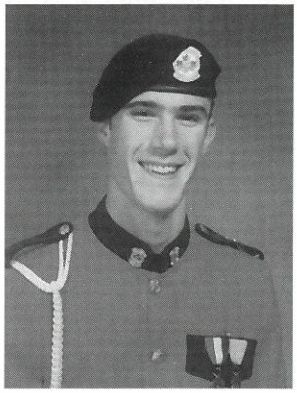
Future Occupation: Fire Fighter /
Sunshine Boy
Attending: Seneca College}
"Keep your head up and your nose clean."

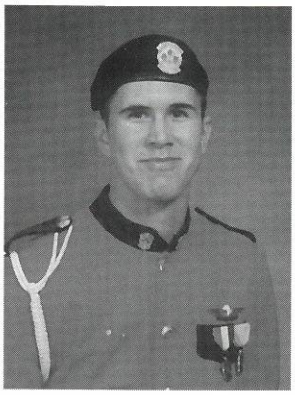


2001

William Kaye

Future Occupation: Physiotherapy
Attending: McMaster University
"Failure is always success if you learn from your mistakes"





Eric Caron

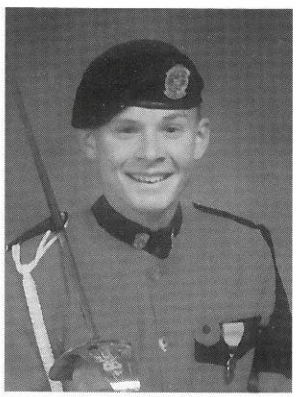
Future Occupation: Business
Attending: McGill University
"You know too much to go back and not enough to go on"

Joseph Testa

Philip Scopis

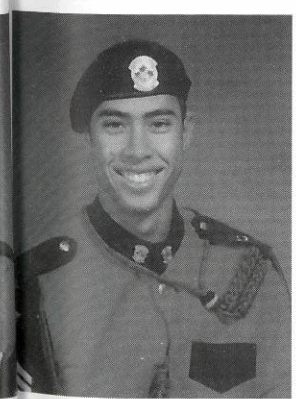
Future Occupation: Director of an Outdoor Adventure Camp / Ski School
Attending: Lakehead University in Thunder Bay
"Whatever don't kill you, makes you stronger and if your going to stand on thin ice, you might as well dance."

Mathew Bennett



Daniel Grabacki

Future Occupation: Marketing / Web Design
Attending: University of Illinois at Chicago
"A wise man, Syd Barrett, once said: 'And when one day you find, ten years have got behind you, no one's told you where to run, you've missed the starting gun'. I think we can learn a lesson from this. The 'magical' power of life maximization lies within all of us, regardless of past events, future goals, or otherwise."

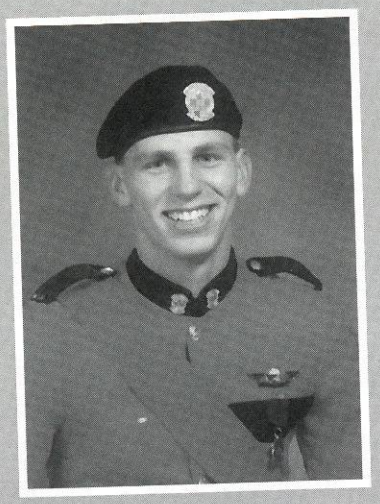


Joshua Rechani

Charles Lee

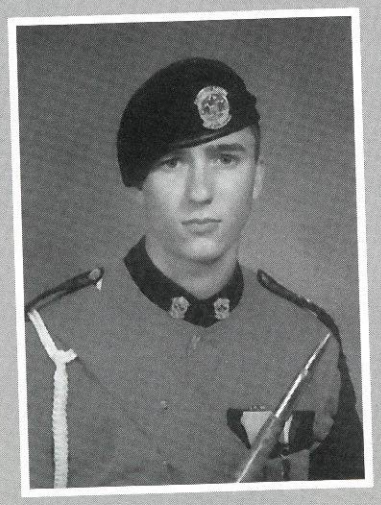
Future Occupation: 'Big Time' lawyer turned politician
Attending: University of Toronto

AIDE-DE-CAMP BLAKE HYDE



Through my experiences at Robert Land Academy, I have been allowed to not only better myself but also help my peers improve their own life skills. I have learned that the values which are promoted at the Academy are not much different than my own. As the Aide-de-camp, I had the responsibility of talking to the cadets and guiding them through their problems. It was a great responsibility because I got to deal with the cadets one on one. Due to my age, they listened sincerely to the advice that I offered because we understood each other. The staff have been more then generous in their interactions with the cadets. They displayed a genuine concern and were always available to the cadets. Attending Robert Land Academy was an experience that I will never forget and deep down inside I will miss.

PARADE SERGEANT-MAJOR MICHAEL RHODES



Robert Land Academy has been a place of change for many cadets this year. It has provided a medium in which the cadets of Robert Land Academy may absorb and reflect the values that are so essential in society today. Robert Land Academy has become a dominion of accepting ones responsibilities, as well as ones faults. Each year I am happy to see the unique relationships that develop within the cadet body. These relationships are the essential bonds that new beginnings blossom. Each and every individual that comes to Robert Land will always leave a part of themselves behind. Each and every individual is connected by a mutualism that cannot be created anywhere else. This year's training phase has quickly come to an end. This year has been about changes and moving ahead in life. I am very proud of the cadet body this year due to the admirable effort and unity that has been put forth.

I am never going to forget those who have come and gone, and I am always going to appreciate those who have helped others when they have fallen down. The values of Robert Land Academy are forever going to remain resident within the cadet body, and the spirit is, and always will be engraved within the soul of the cadets at Robert Land.

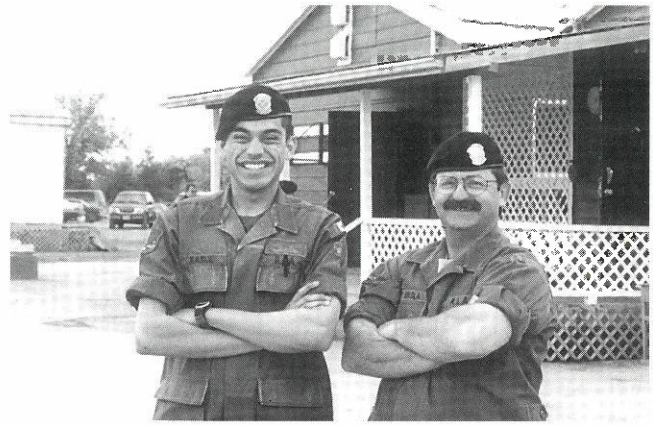
HEAD BOY

My Life at Robert Land Academy

When thinking about my experience at Robert Land Academy one thing that comes to mind is the word Hope. Hope is one of those things that people have when they have an expectation or desire. As I reminisce about the first day I entered Robert Land Academy all I think about is the goals and endeavors I had then and what they are now. As I think about the past two years I have been at Robert Land Academy, I feel many lessons have been learnt and many goals accomplished. In my life Robert Land Academy has not been a savior but a tool and environment to succeed in. The values we hold at the Academy are a part of my life and have their own meaning to me. Even though Commitment, Courage, Honor, Labour, and Loyalty are the five values, I have learnt lessons like honesty and being humble to others as well as myself. With life at Robert Land Academy at an end. There are a lot of individuals to thank for my successes. I would first like to thank my Parents and Sister, through good and bad they have never given up on me. Never did they say I would not succeed and become a better person, for this I am thankful. Secondly I would like to thank Capt. Michelle Phelps, she has been an essential part of my success. No teacher in any school I have gone to has cared and spent more time with me then she has. If there was a teacher of the year award she would win it every year. I would like to also thank individuals like DSM Sinclair for his consent support and incentive in helping young adults that come to Robert Land Academy become better people. When talking about helping individuals staff like CSM Robinson, Capt. McAndrews, Capt. Erola, Lt. Milliken and ASM Zahra come to mind all this individuals have been there whenever I needed a helping hand or advice on a situation. Also individuals like Lt. Evans, Warrant Kirby and Warrant Marleau have always kept me on track with their experience that they share. Lastly I would like to thank Lt. Colonel Bowman his knowledge and intention in constructing Robert Land Academy has made an impact on all that have attend the school. Every year this man has put a special feeling in all the Cadets. His leadership and care for the Cadets at Robert Land Academy has been essential in the comradery we display with each other. I will always remember his speeches of sincere words of lessons, encouragement, and honesty. I will also remember the friends I have made in the past two years. Friends such as Michael Rhodes, Daniel Grabacki, Sean Devine, William Kaye, Eric Caron, Sean Barker, Chris Marshall, and Daniel Church have all been a essential part in my success as a individual. Through thick and thin they have stuck by and been their to talk to. As my life at Robert Land Academy comes to an end I feel blessed that I have had the opportunity to make something of myself. I started as a boy with no dream and confidence. I leave a man with dreams which are waiting to come true and accomplishments I will remember for the rest of my life.

Hope makes today possible and tomorrow attractive, or at least less threatening. Hope makes death bearable . . . hope is the mainstay of our energy. We go forward - because we hope.

Arthur Jones



BY W/O FAROOQ RASUL

Head Boy 2001

Senior Class

Robert Burgess
Mathew Byron
Damon Chan
Jonathan Daw
Sean Devine

Alexander Diaz
Robert Duncan
David Faulk
Paul Flannery
Nathen Froude

Michael Gascoigne
Brian Glockling
Patrick Goan
Dustin Houlihan
Jonathan Huffman

Ricky Lau
Isaac Macchia
Christopher Marshall
Marc Neveu
Charles Nicholls

Christopher Pauwels
Matthew Phillips
Eric Reddon
Zebulon Reid
Jonathan Rohrich

Dean Shed
Doug Simpson
Jonathan Simpson
Colin Thompson
Olivier Tolila

Daniel Weaver-Rutten
Kevin Yu

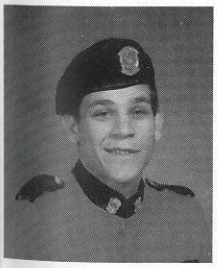
Bounders

Grade 10 - Adventure Program

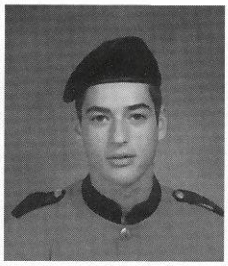
Capt C Doig is the fearless leader of Bravo Company, commonly called the Bounders.

Bandmaster Frick and Corporal Migliore stand proud prior to the final parade of this year. Drummer Cadet Mikhalets stand between them.

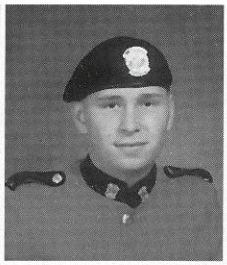
Canoeing was a large part of the Bounder training. It was also one of the obstacles of the Outlander Competition.



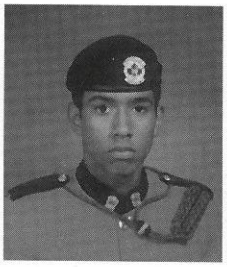
Morgan Abouganim



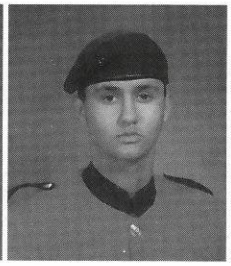
Nichola Agostino



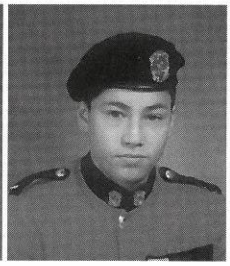
Lukas Bellik



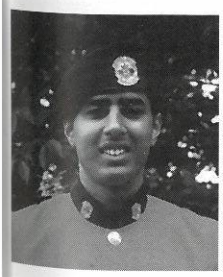
David Bishop



Floyd Bowler

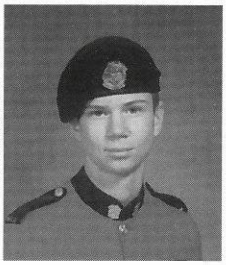


Danbi Cho



Surwinder Chohan

James Cook



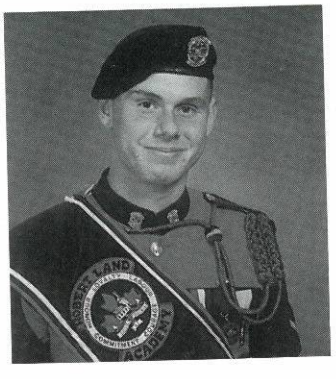
Bobby Davis

Chad Davis

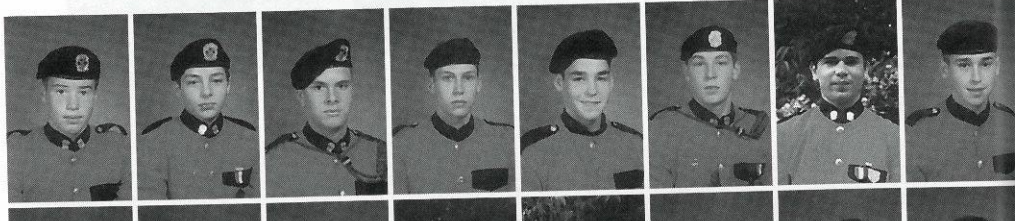
Mitchell Delenardo

Patrick Fenus

Michael Migliore

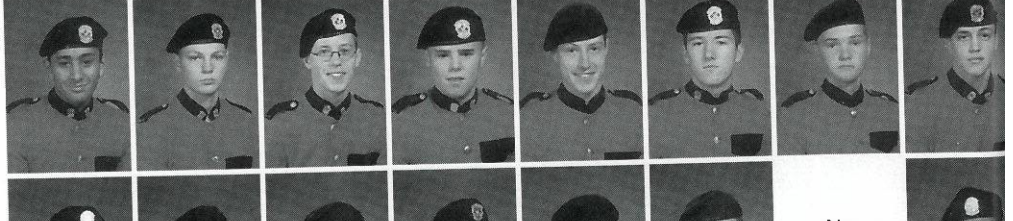


Steven Fockler
Thomas Fowler
Alex Frick
Liam Gadsby
Alex Gagnon
Daniel Gisborne
Yaron Givati
Justin Gold



Terrence Howley
Marc Hull
Devon King
Derek Klassen
Jason Kreamer
Mathieu Lafreniere
Adrian Li
Michael Lourdes

Justin Manning
Christopher Mason
Patrick Meese
Paul Morris
Mark Neiweem
Bruce Paige
Matt Ridge
Gavin Rosa



Kenneth Ross
Tyler Schlegel
Justin Tracy
Adam Tuerlings
Morgan Tuffs
Brent Van de Wetering
Ryan Wood
Andre Woodman

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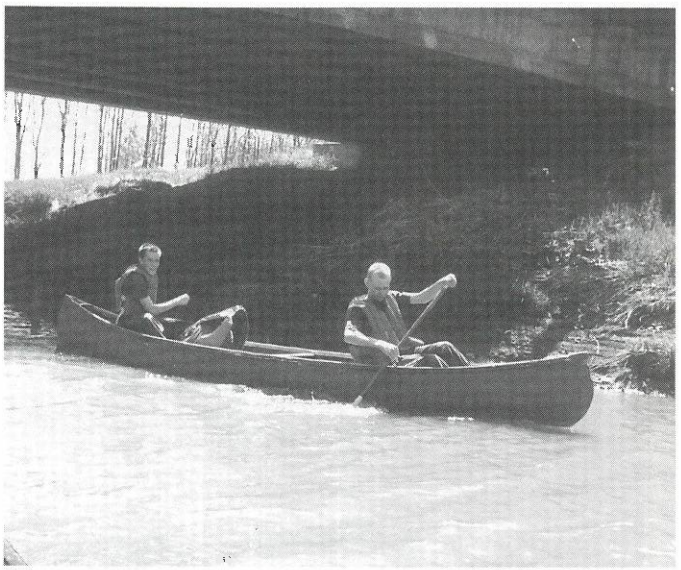
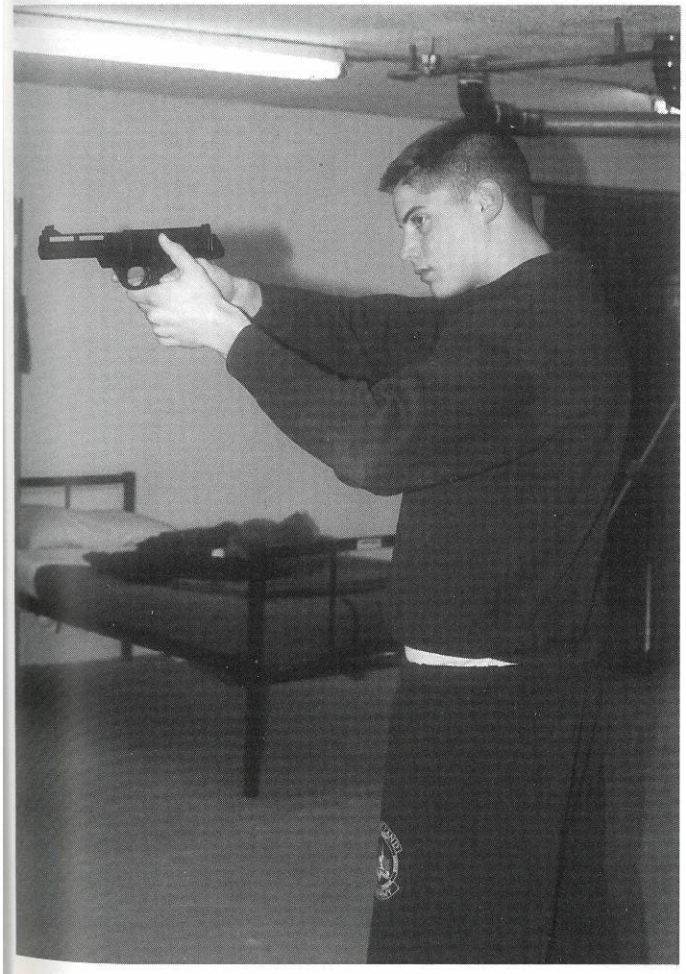
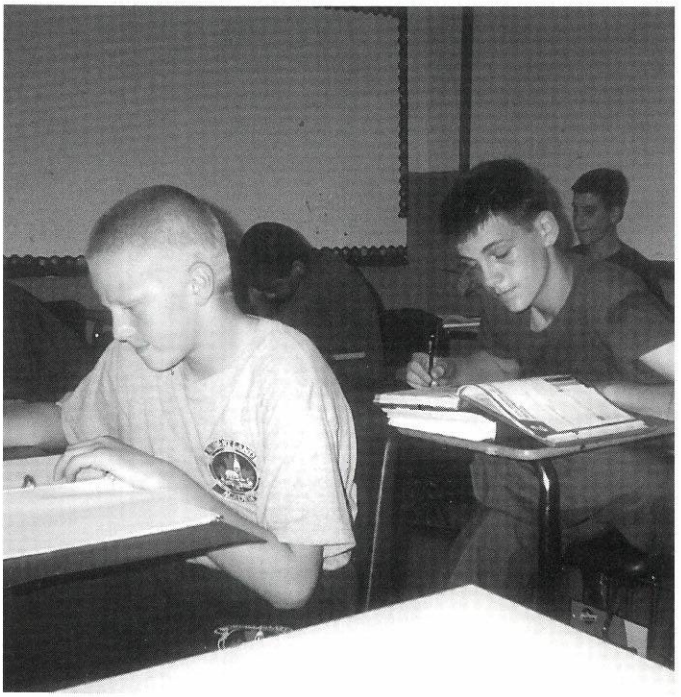
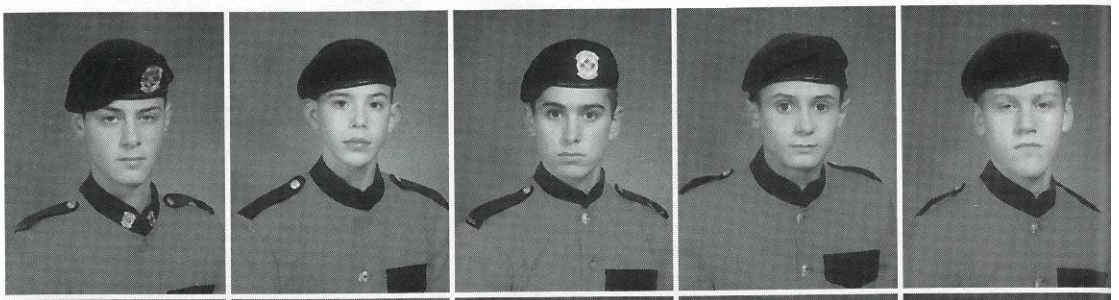






Grade 9

Nicholas Ayers
Jason Bond
Daniel Cherb
James Collins
Ryan Conway

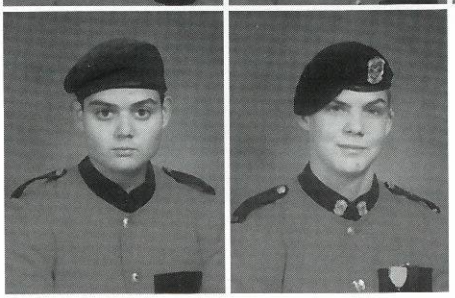


Jason Davidson
Michael DiCintio
Paul Dixon
Andrew Duff
Jesse Estrella

Donald Evans
Trea Evans
Leigh Farrant
Sebastian Gamblin
Michael Gontier

Alexander Halpert
David Hart
Adam Hyszko
Paul Kanevshy
Sofian Kanji

Chris Karlos
Nathan Koop
Mark Lafleur
Brian Lee
Cory Luscombe



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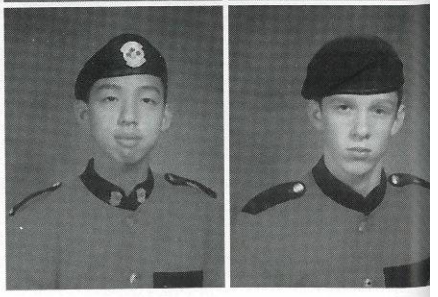


Cadets from Alpha Company observe as a Sergeant from the Parachute Centre explains the operation of the jump harness. Cadet Daniel Church stands as the example for the cadet body. These grade nine students had an extraordinary experience.

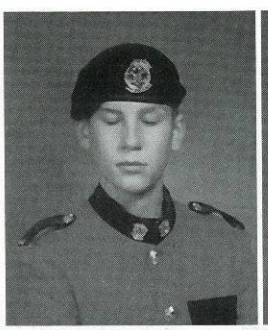
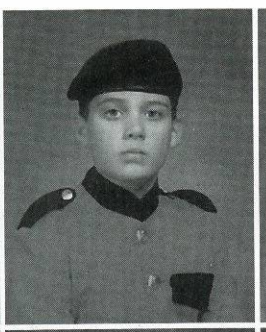
Daniel Lynch
Jamie Marshall
James Mayer
Tristan McCall
Alexier Mikhalets

Joshua Place
Richard Proulx
Dmitri Romar
Michael Silver
Lecrese Spinler

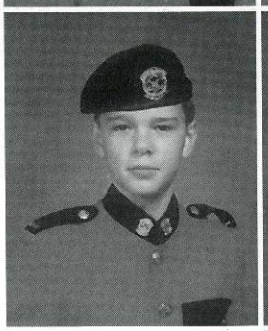
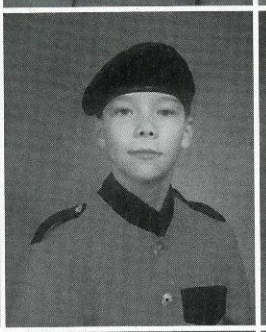
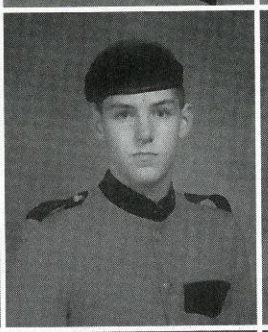
Calvin Steacy
Daniel Swala
Christopher Vining

Grades 7/8

Luke Banks
James Bell
Bent Courtenay
Ian Crane

Scott Daley
Jared Darbyshire
Mark Einstein
Michael Hrobuchak

Adam Jensen
Kolby Kehr
Yevgeny Liberman
Naser Omar

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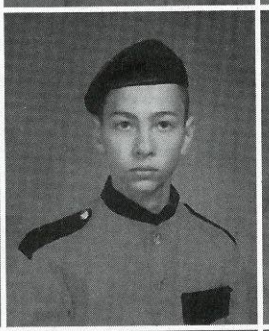
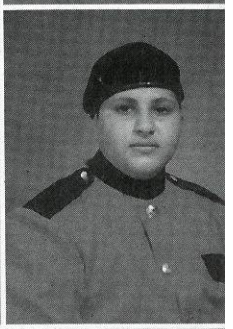

Philip Poon
Elijah Senechal
Meetul Shah
Joshua Smith-Norman

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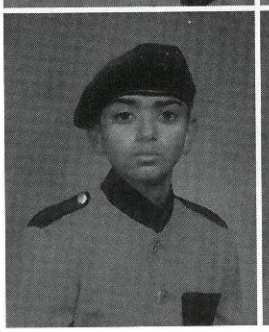
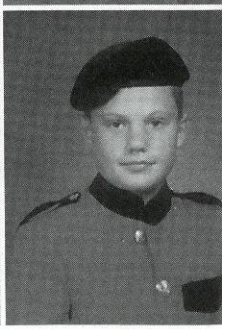
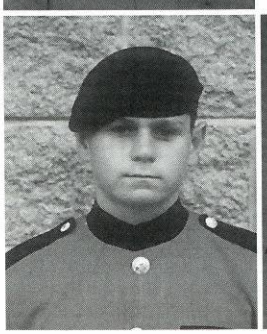
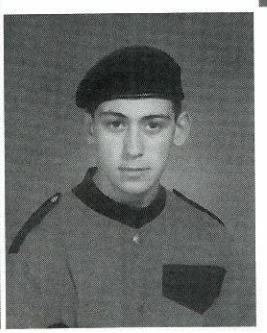



Brandon Starrett
John Tchervenko

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pressure courage believe competitive uni
supportive intense hope invincible courage n
classic honor ideal responsibility determinat
humility independent victory ingenious h
modify intensity dominate direct stabi
fearless determined creativity individ
motivation direction structure foundation u
opportunity academics diversity wisdom cour
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pride endurance pressure courage believe competitive uni
determined supportive intense hope invincible courage no
involved classic honor ideal responsibility determination wis
humility independent victory ingenious bold determined mo
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invincible courage noble involved classic honor ideal responsibil
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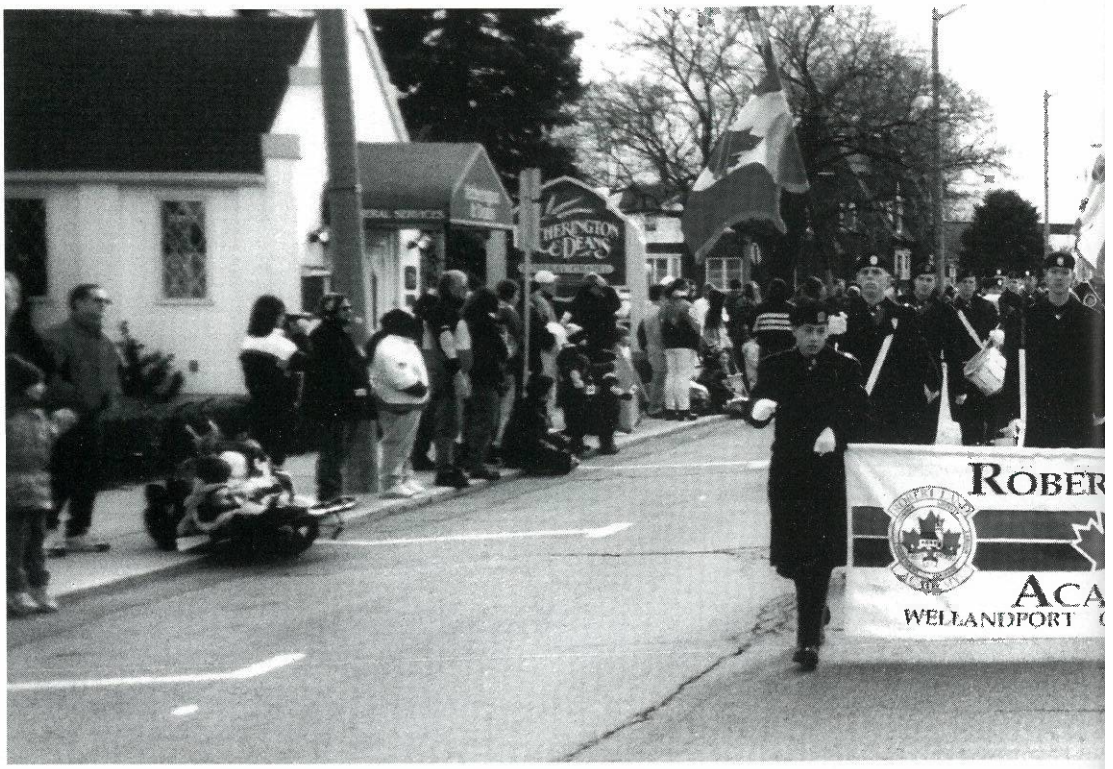

ROBER
ACA
WELLANDPORT

TIP HATS

LAND
MY
RIO CANADA
OYSTER

A Lost Boy

When I first arrived I was scared and lost,
My parents didn't care about the cost.
They knew I needed to change and that was it.
They tried to do what they thought fit.

So they sought help from RLA,
And that is why I am grateful today.
A lost boy I was thought to be,
But, finally I can see.

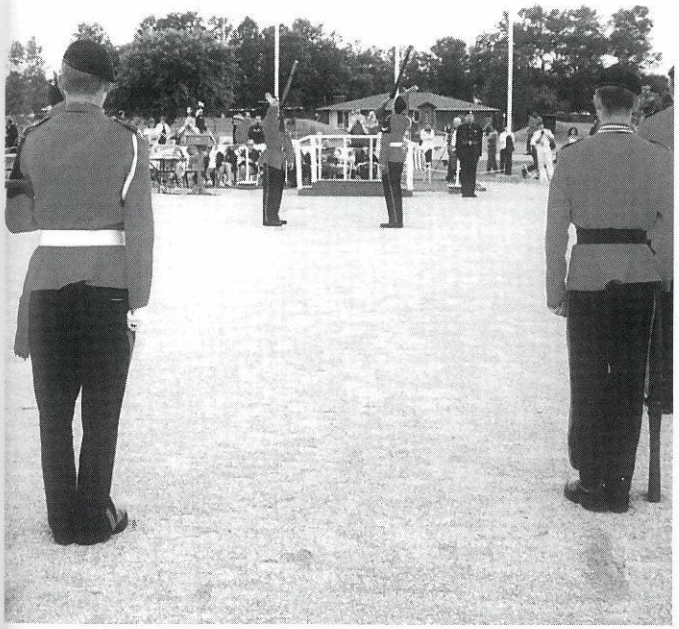
I realize what I've done wrong.
I thought about it nice and long.
I need to change and that is it.
Finally, the light in my head is lit.

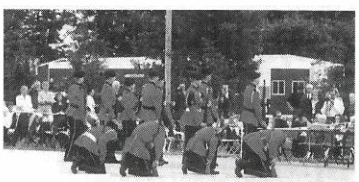
My head is high just like a cloud,
All I want to do is shout out loud.
RLA please help my mind and soul,
Help me reach my goal.

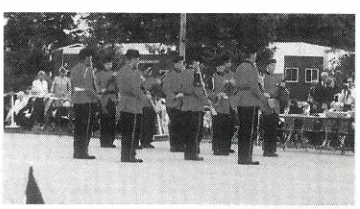
RLA you are my hero.
The regrets I have are now zero.
RLA I am grateful to you the most,
For surely without you, I would still be lost.

Barman Yevgeny Liberman
Grade 8 English with 2Lt Collins

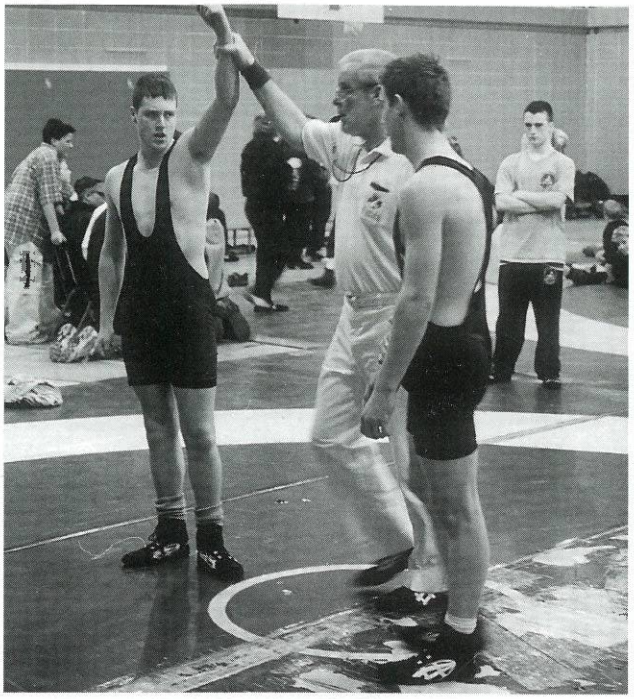
Rifle Drill Team

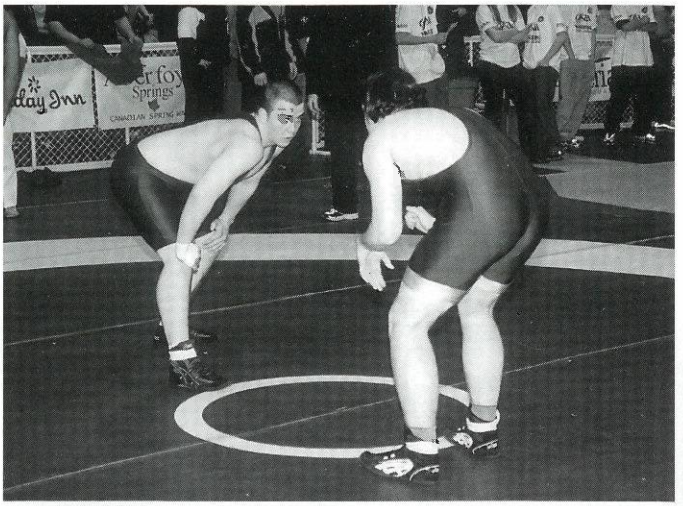


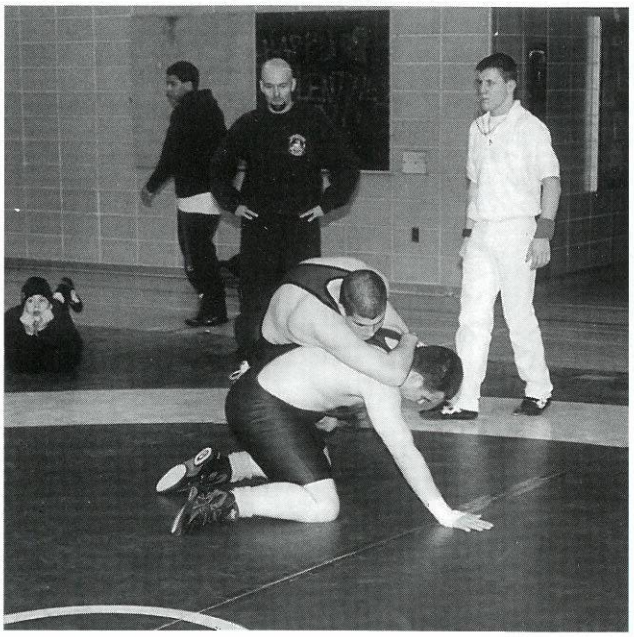


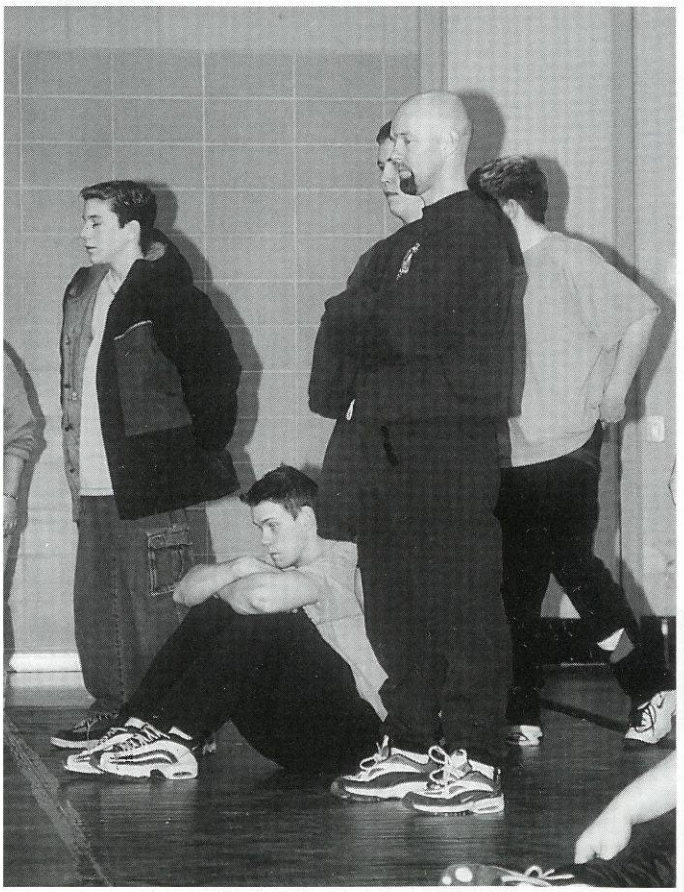


Wrestling







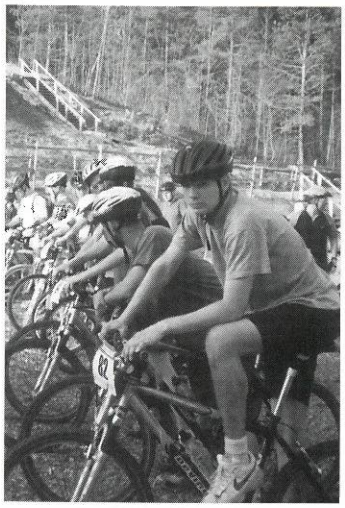


Lt. Weddig and Lt. Grieve coached the varsity wrestling team to another successful season. Practises were held in the early mornings and after class into the evening. Robert Land Academy can boast to have the best wrestlers and coaches in the zone.

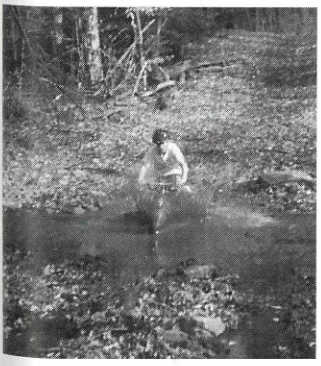
Pain is good! It lets you know your alive!

Bikers take it to the limits!

Mountain Biking



The mountain biking club under the guidance of Capt. Doig and ASM Zahra, took their team to the ultimate centre for mountain biking. Hardwood hills offered enough of a challenge that even our most experienced riders could learn a trick or two.



Lt./Col. Bowman stands with Mr. Borghese and his son. These are the gentlemen who instruct and conduct parachute jumps with our staff and cadets.

Together, the graduates of our most recent parachute course stand infront of Landholme Hall.

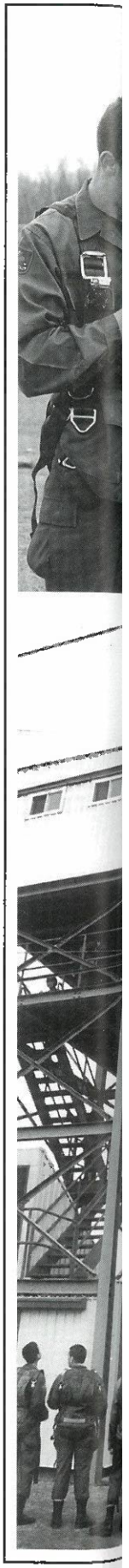
Staff and cadet alike, take up their greatest personal challenge.

Parachute Club

Mock Tower Training

Grade 9 cadets have their day!

In March of this year, CSM Grenier, CSM Routery, Wo Kirby and Capt. Erola took the grade nine cadets of Alpha Company to Canadian Forces Base Trenton. At the Parachute Centre, instructors explained the process of becoming parachutist. The cadets had the opportunity to tour the Parachute Centre and to speak with qualified "jumpers". The cadets then had the opportunity to jump from the mock tower.



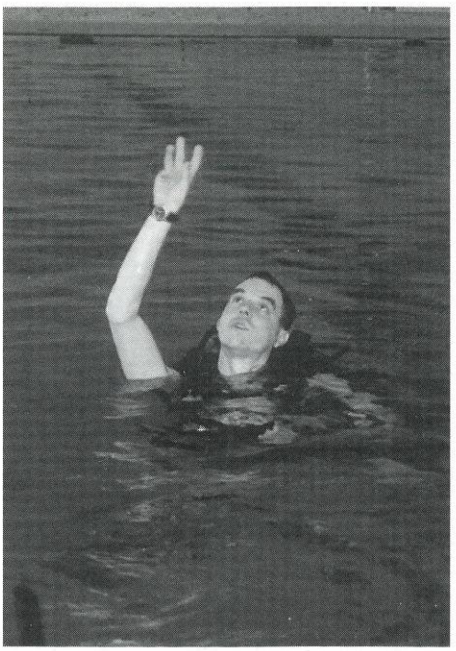
Cadet Hrobuchak and Corporal Froude are checking out their jump harnesses to ensure they are wearing them properly. They then checked each others harness!

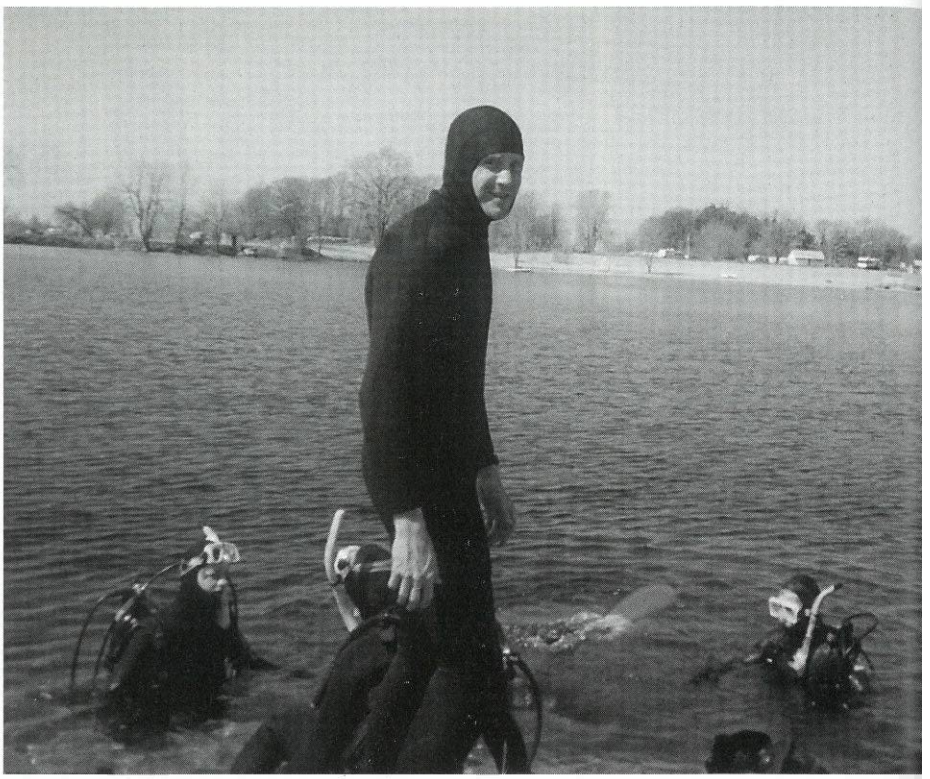
Wo Kirby helps a cadet off the lines.

Corporal Gamblin helps Cadet McCall off the lines. Cadet McCall, as the other cadets, doubled back to the tower to take the challenge again!

Teamwork is the lesson of the day!

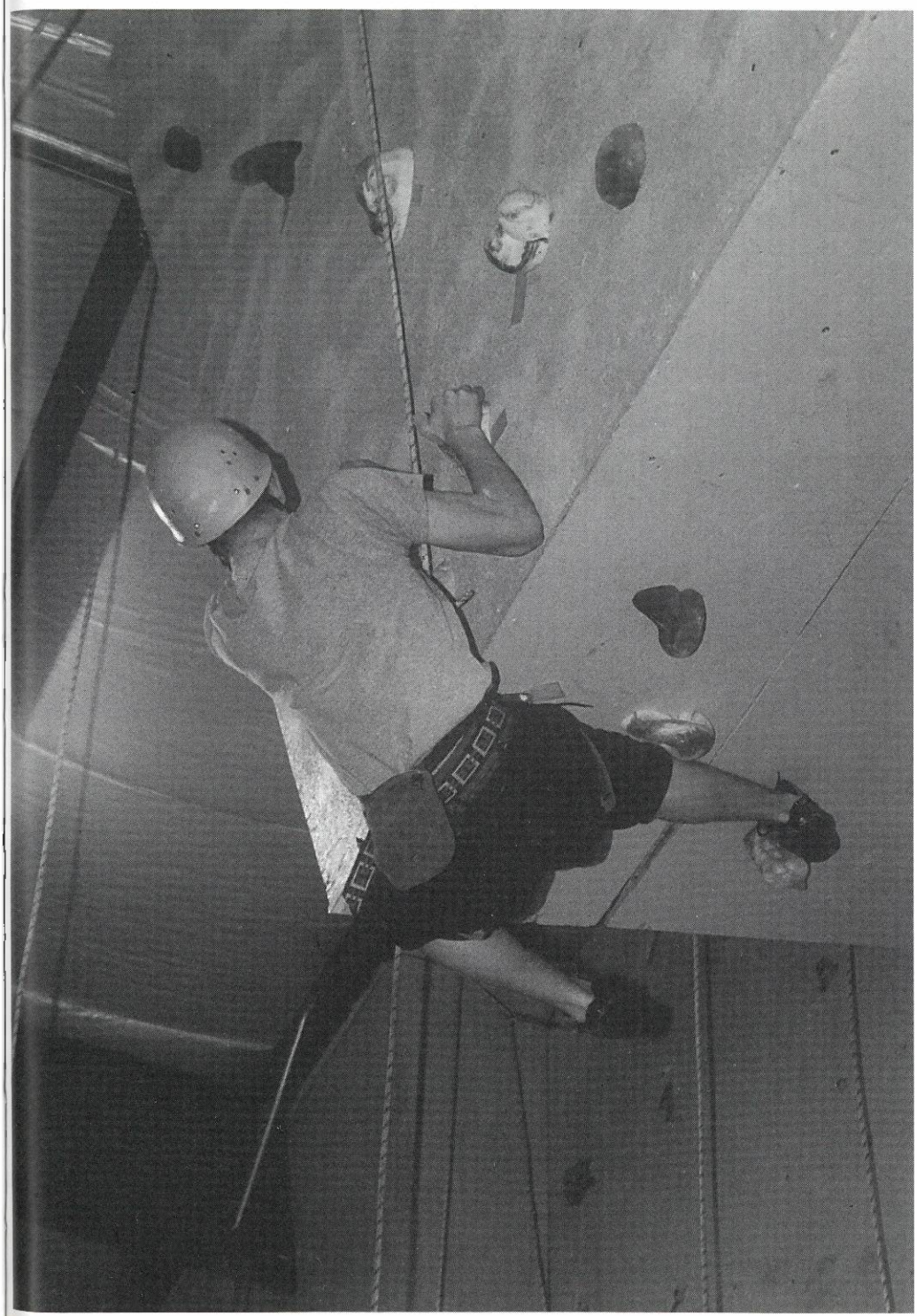
SCUBA

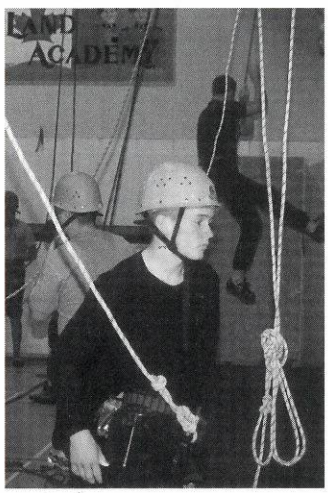




CSM Robinson of Bravo Company is our personal SCUBA instructor.

Rock Climbing Club





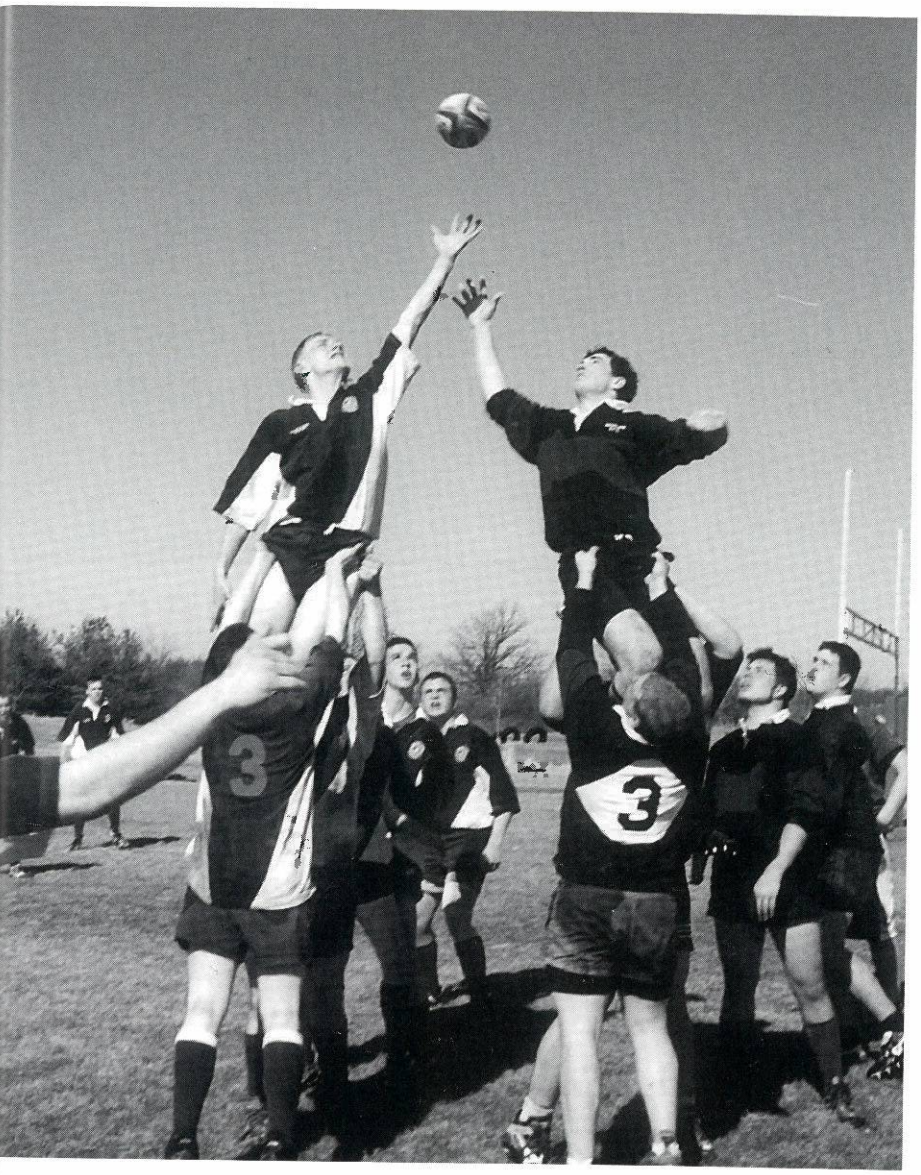
Only the tough need apply!

RUGBY

Front field team photo.

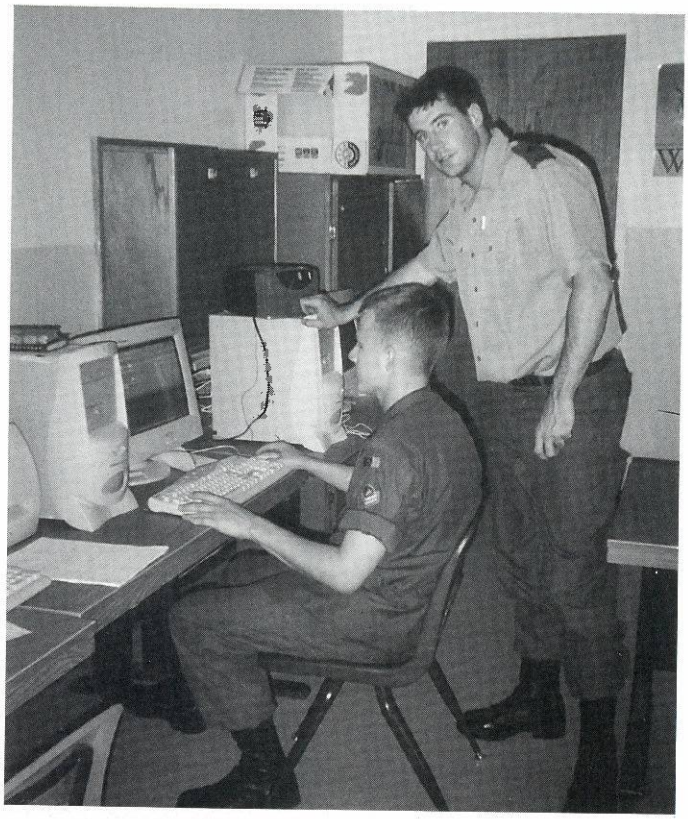
Even the junior were allowed to practise with the team.

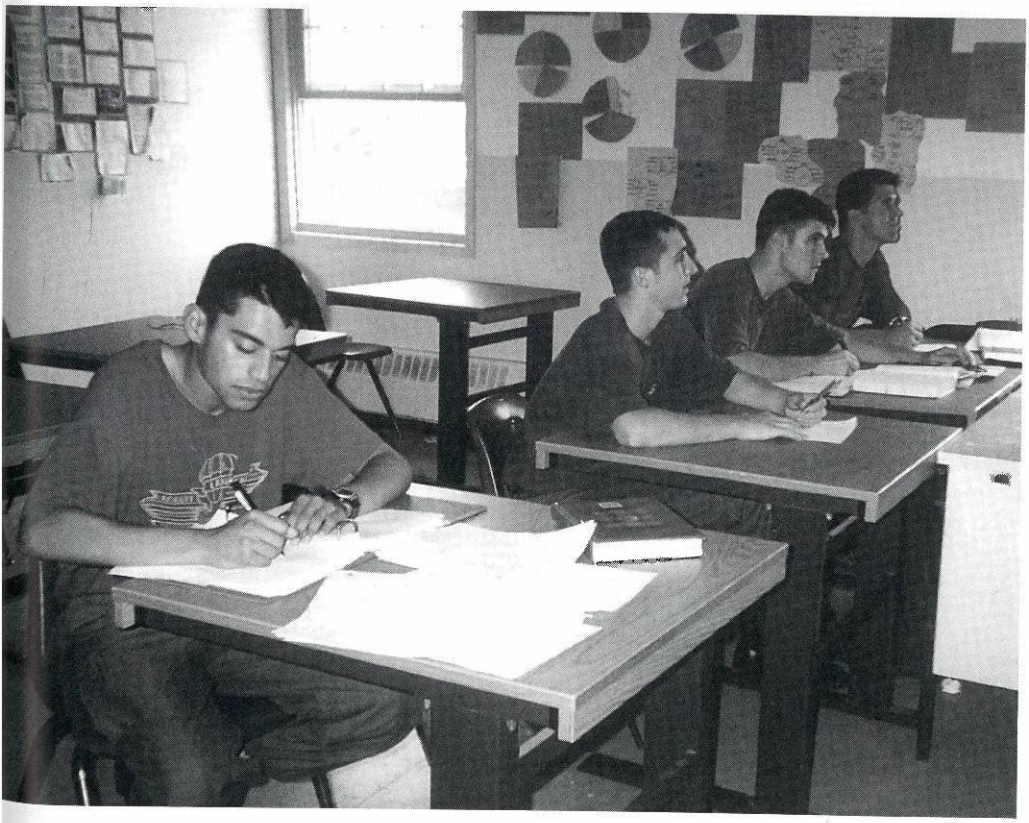
Lt. Weddig brought a world of experience as the head coach.

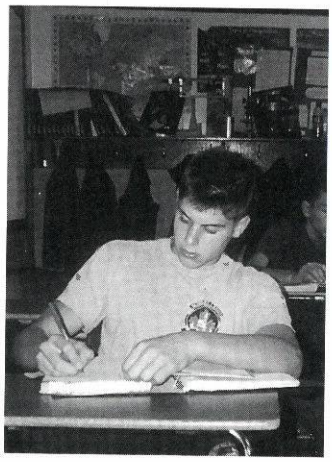


So, what really happened to Cadet Fenus?

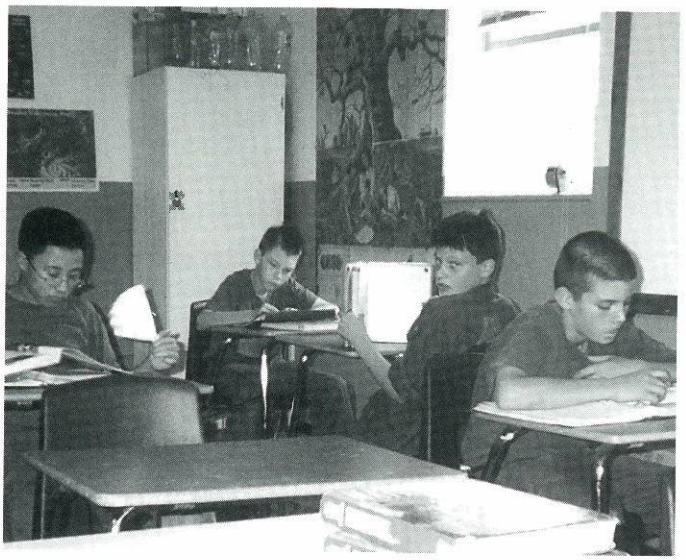
ACADEMICS

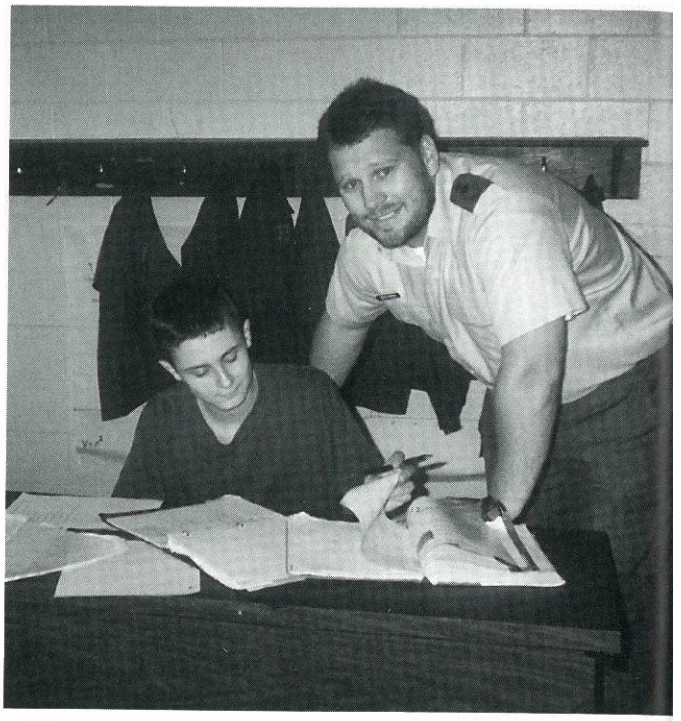


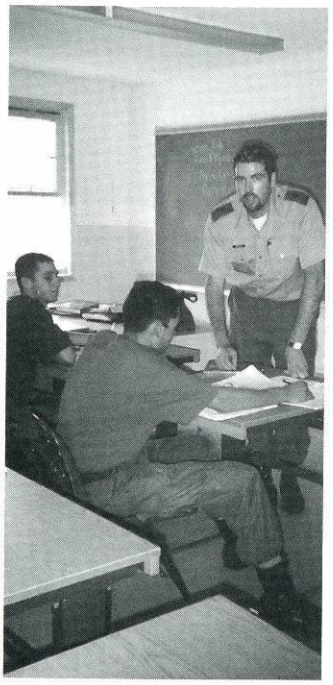




Lt. Davidson offered math tutorials every day after classes. All a cadet needed to do was to sign up or was signed up!

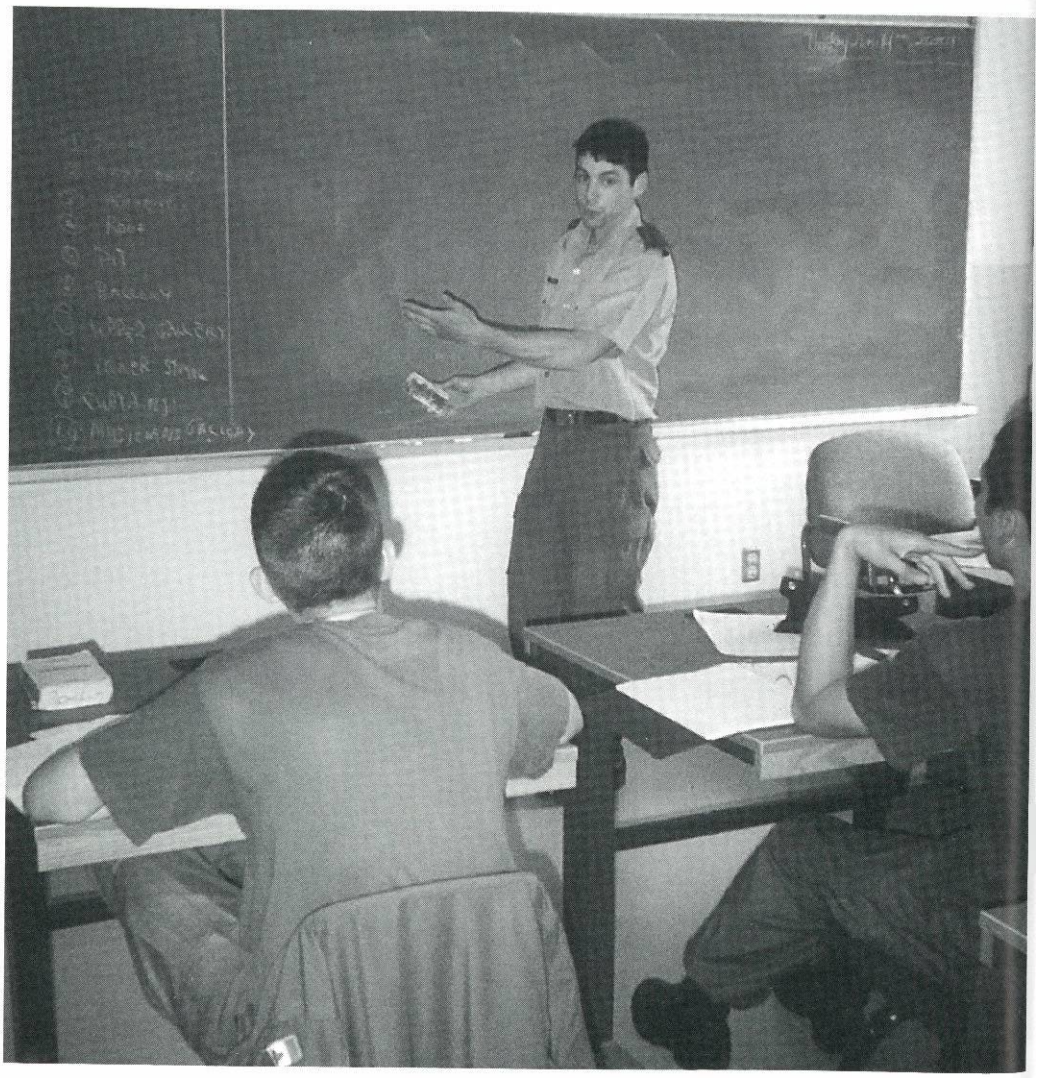






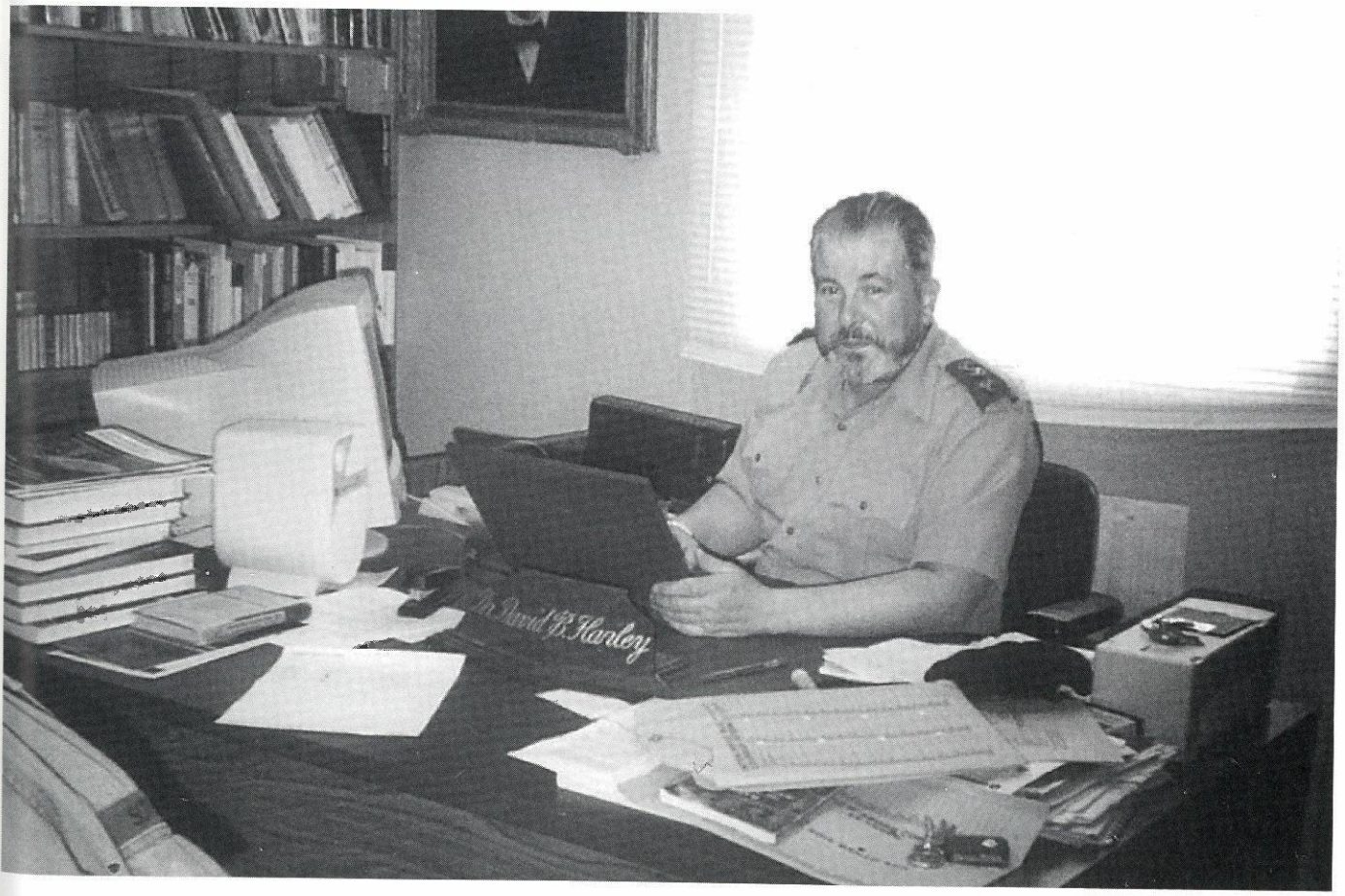
2Lt Servos with his senior class.

Lt Simmons is an incredible speaker and lecturer. But does anyone really understand what he is saying?



Dr. D. Harley

Director of Studies



SO, WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

ST. CATHARINES-NIAGARA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2001 85 CENTS (INCLUDING GST) DAILY

HIGH SCHOOL RANKINGS

Two Niagara schools rank with the best

Robert Land Academy rated tops in Niagara; Sir Winston Churchill places second in report card

By Standard Staff

Two Niagara high schools have been graded among the best in the province by the Fraser Institute's Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools.

The Robert Land Academy in West Lincoln is the region's No. 1 school, coming 18th out of 568 schools, using figures for the 1998-99 academic year, while Sir Winston Churchill Secondary in St. Catharines is rated second in Niagara and 19th in the province. The Robert Land Academy scored 9.7 out of a possible 10 points; Churchill was close behind at 9.6, which made it Ontario's No. 2 public school.

Notre Dame College School of Welland is the No. 5 Catholic school, ranked 68th in the province with a score of 8.2. St. Michael High School in Niagara Falls is tied for seventh in the Catholic category, 76th overall with a score of 8.1

At the other end of the scale, Lakeport Secondary in St. Catharines finished 567th with a 0.1 score, ahead of only Lake Superior High School in Terrace Bay, which had a mark of zero. St. Paul High School of Niagara Falls also recorded one of the lowest scores (2.8), placing it 550th on the overall table.

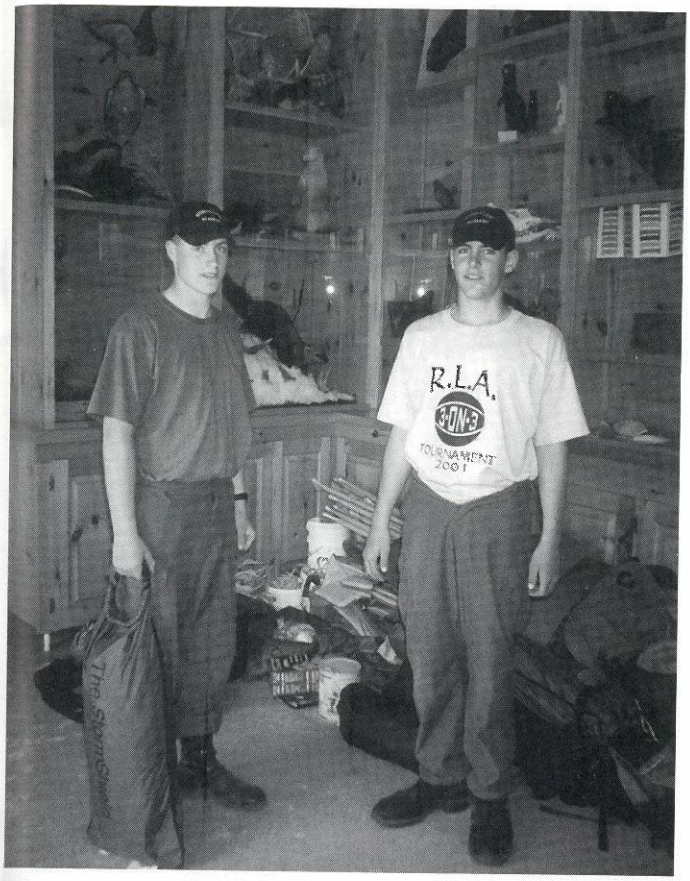
The Fraser Institute, a Vancouver-based economic think-tank, compiled its report using information provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education for the years 1994-99. This is the first time it has examined schools in Ontario. The Fraser Institute has published report cards on high schools in British Columbia since 1998, in Alberta since 1999 and in Quebec since last year.

The overall ranking of a school is based on the percentage of advanced-level courses taken, the percentage of courses passed in grades 11, 12 and OAC, the number of core subject courses (such as English, maths and basic sciences) taken in Grade 12 and OAC; and the gap in the average course mark between girls and boys in Grade 12 advanced English (or French for French schools) and Grade 12 advanced mathematics. Schools with fewer than 15 students in Grade 12 were not evaluated. The institute examined 815 schools, but had enough information to rank only 568.

The report found that private schools offer the best education. Perfect scores of 10 were awarded to 16 schools, all of them private. Richmond Hill H.S. is the No. 1 publicly funded school, ranked 17th with a score of 9.8.

Of the 100 highest-ranked schools, 76 are publicly funded, reports the National Post, which published complete details of the study today. Of those, 43 are in the Toronto area.

Please see High school page A2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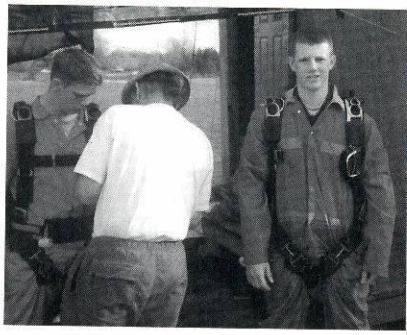

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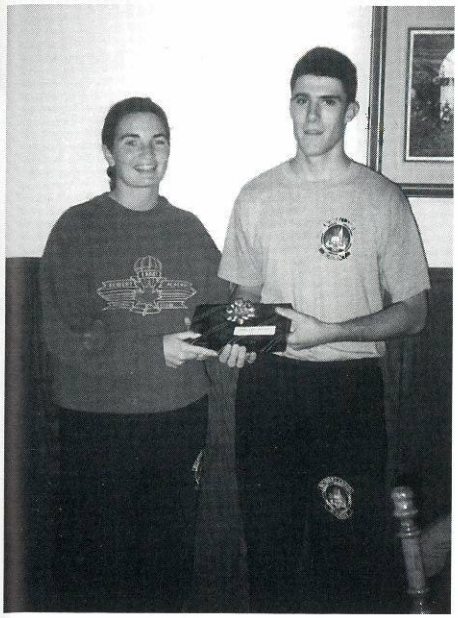

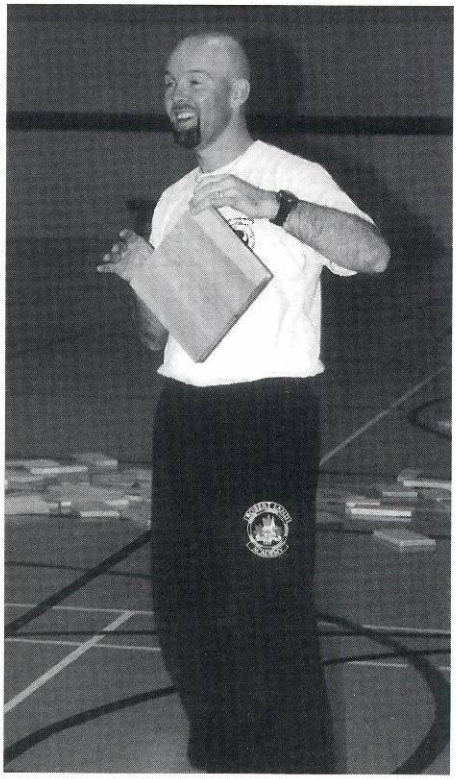

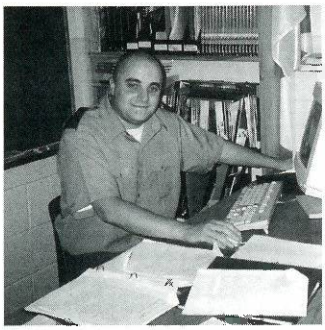

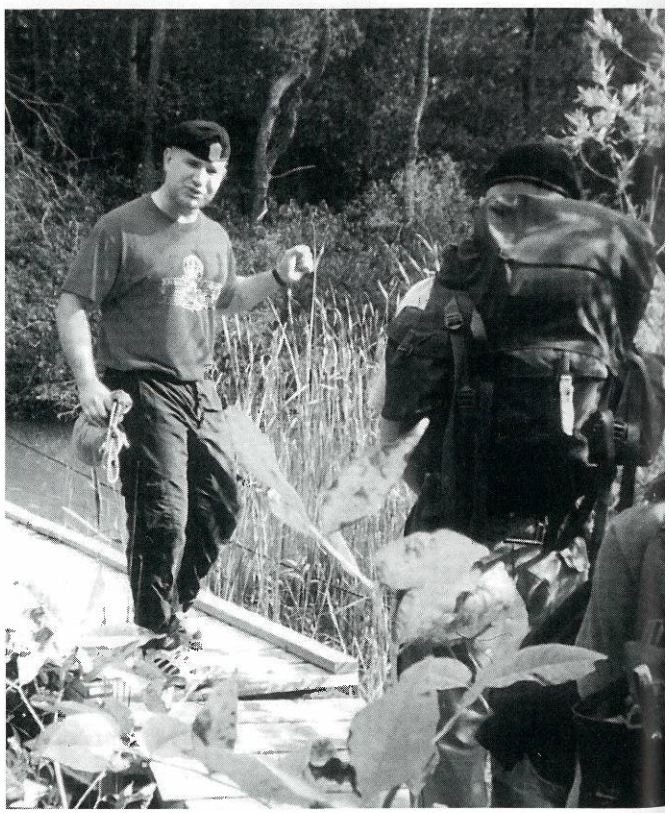

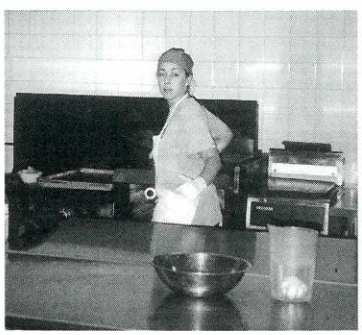

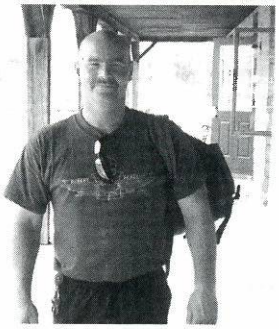

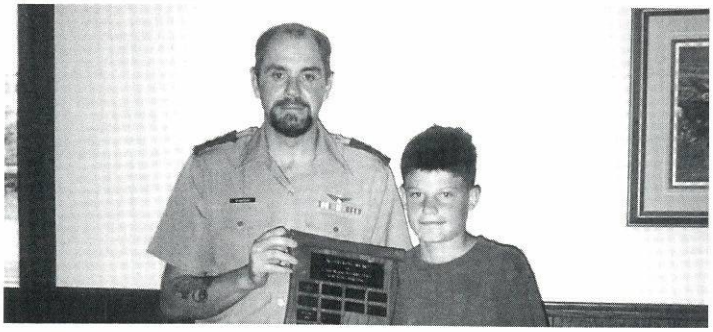

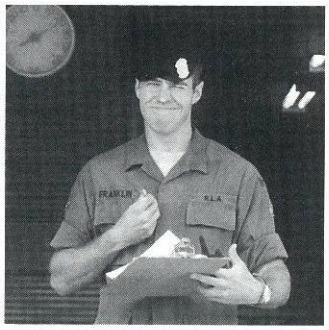

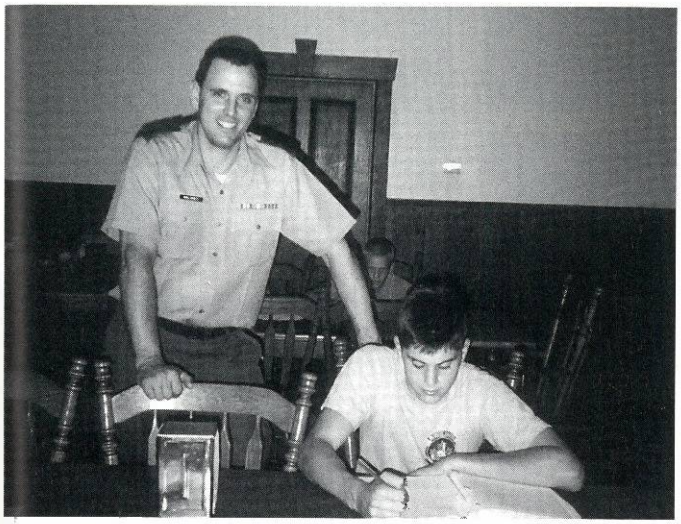

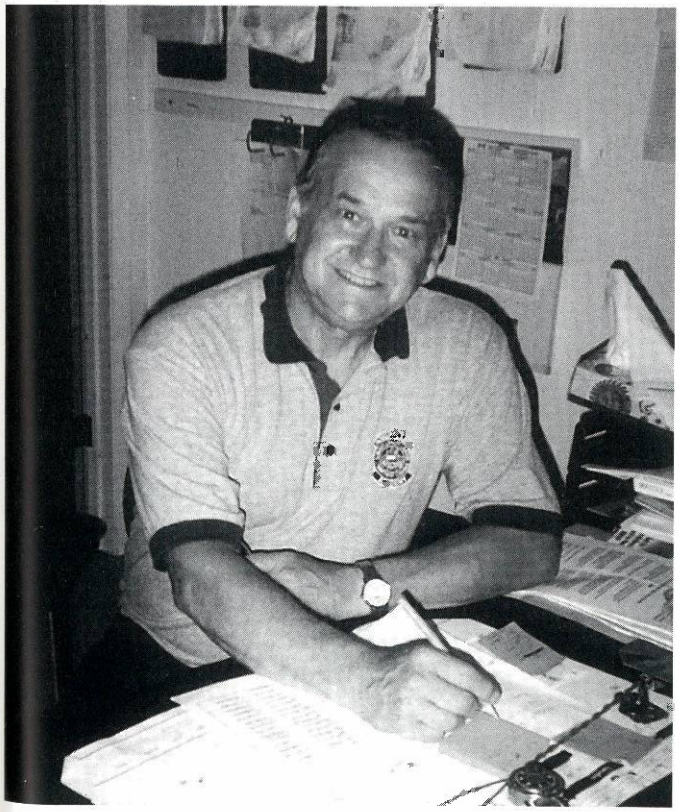

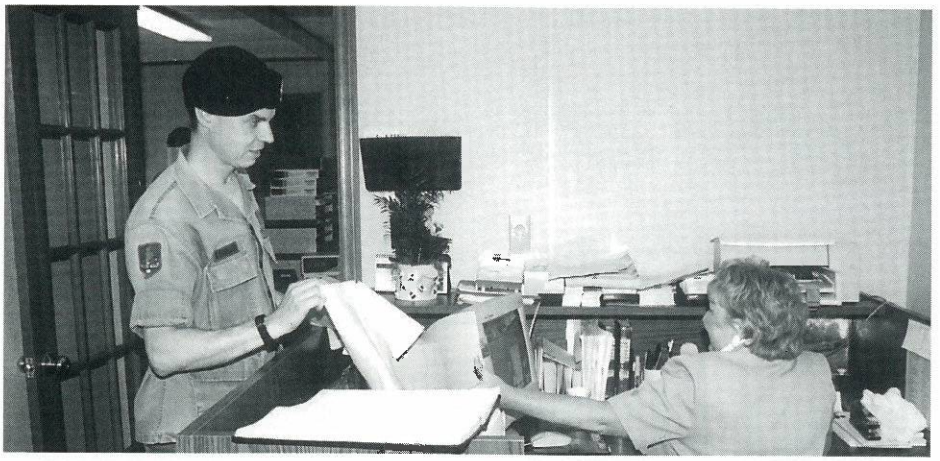

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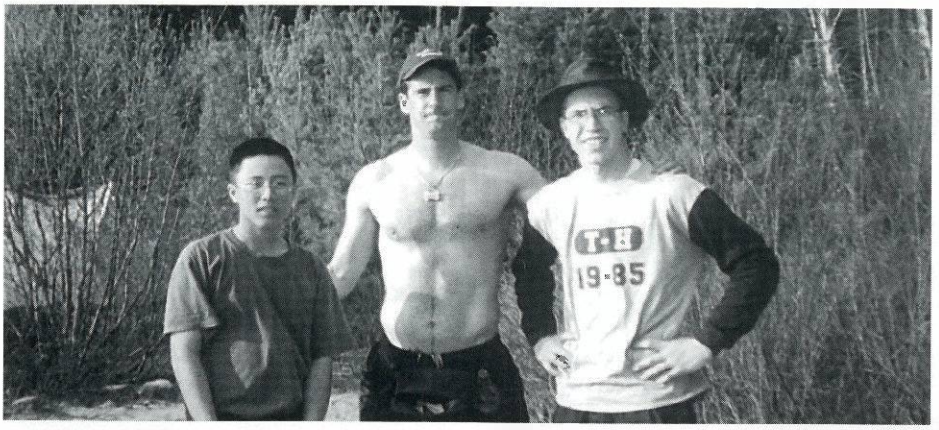
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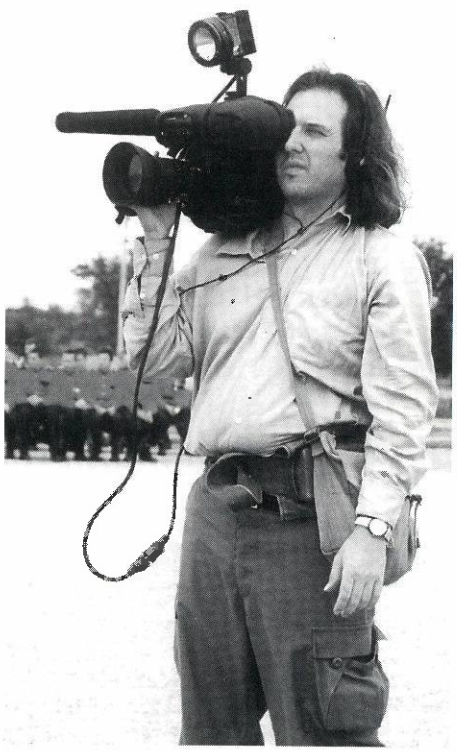
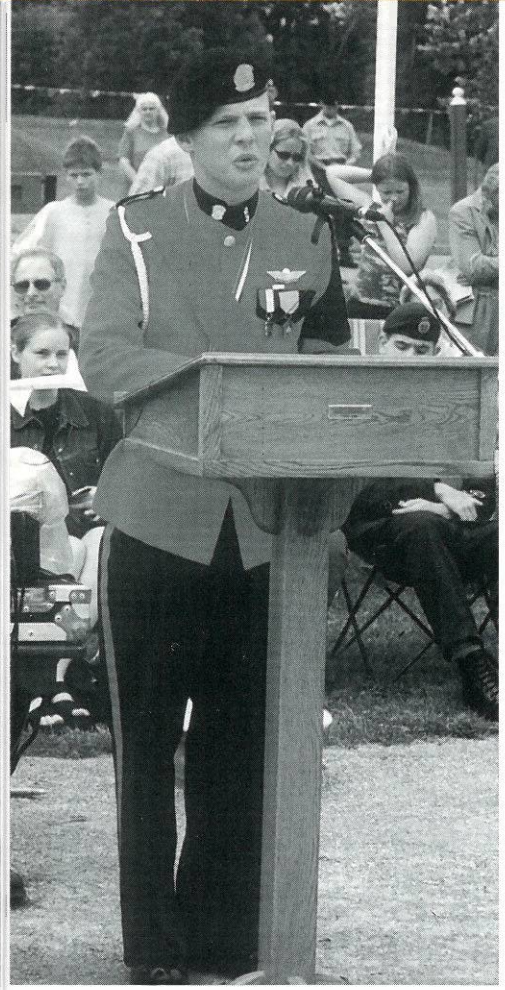




VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Good morning Lt. Col. Bowman, Staff and Faculty Members, Honored Guests, Fellow Students, and Loving Parents,

When I was told that I was going to be the Valedictorian, a fond memory came to mind. I recalled my experience of being Confirmed in the Catholic Religion which occurred 6 years ago. At the time of my Confirmation, God and I were not on, let's say, "the best of terms". After going through what many of my fellow parishioners considered to be a "moving" ceremony, the Pastor, at the time -- Father McDonnell, presented a speech to the newly confirmed. In this presentation, he proceeded to state how he felt that we were all "much closer to God". Being the angelic child that I was at the time, (ahem), I sat in the church and thought that, although Father McDonnell, truly, has a heart of gold these statements were a little less than completely correct!

His speech, however, prompted, what I consider to be, the most important process that I ever have entered in my life. As I started High School I began reading Neitzsche and the likes. I went through my period of teenage angst, and have, consequently, learned the value of constructive rebellion.

I found myself at Robert Land Academy 4 years after that and it is so strange to see that Robert Land is, in fact, rebellious in its essence. Look around yourselves for a moment. Where else do you see the moral instruction that we receive? Where else do you see staff members that are as dedicated and caring as the ones that are here?

It is believed that military programs, and schools are proof of the greatest form of conformity. They are partially correct. I see Robert Land Academy as two distinctly separate worlds. The primary world, that we are introduced to as recruits, is one where personal decision does not exist. We were forced to learn respect, and internalize the five values of Honor, Labor, Loyalty, Commitment, and Courage. The second world that necessarily follows the first is one of appropriate, moral decision making, both in and out of school. It is in this realm where we discover the practicality of "feeling good", the emotional experience that ties these two worlds together.

Robert Land Academy has presented all of us the opportunity to gain these, and other new perspectives on life. This opportunity was prompted by one of the most superlative gifts we will ever be given. Our parents made the tough decision of sending us to Robert Land, and joining the ranks of the selected few with the dedication to be rebellious and support their sons.

We had several examples that guided our change. Lt. Col. Bowman taught and ingrained the five values and presented how appealing proper, moral living may be. The staff members, such as ASM Zahra, CSM Grenier, and CSM Routery, commended our good behaviour and disciplined our wrong decisions in the hope that learning would take place on our behalf. Samaritans, including Capt. Erola, Capt. LeClerc, and

Lt. Bates, graced us with life philosophies and, further exemplified moral living. Our instructors, such as Dr. Harley, Lt. Simmons, Lt. Milliken, Lt. Servos, Lt. Jacques, and every other teacher and coach, presented us with the knowledge that we would need to reach our goal of success and carry on in life. This is yet another priceless gift that we have been given.

I, personally, have found such wonderful friends as cadets Devine, Froude, Rasul, Rhodes, Bellik, Thompson, and so many others. They have all taken such a vital, supportive roll when times got tough, that their contribution to my success is nearly impossible to describe.

Undoubtedly, however, the most influential impact we all have experienced has been that from our parents. Despite the array of errors we have made, their love and support has been felt in more ways than one. They have continued to work with us and compliment the complex change we have undergone, here at Robert Land.

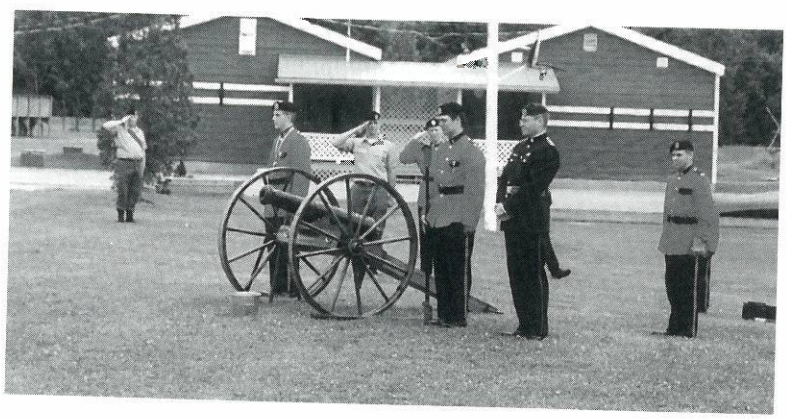
It seems the united Robert Land Family, that has rallied around us in our times of personal challenge, deserves an infinite amount of thanksgiving. So it is from the depths of all our hearts that we thank all of you for the exemplary effort made on all of our behalves. There truly is an immense amount of wisdom in the saying "there is no greater love than to give yourself for the sake of another."

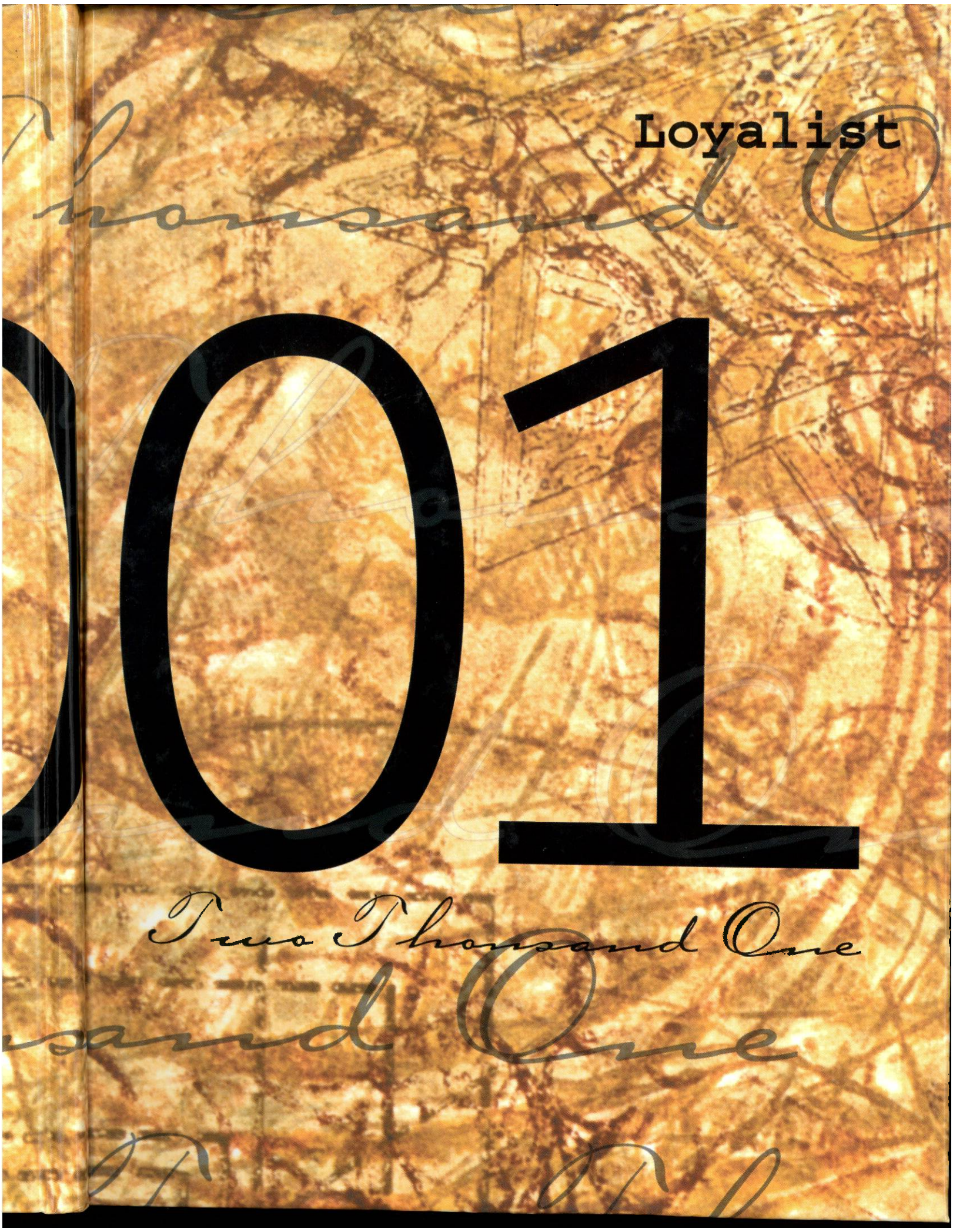
In my evaluation, the most important lesson we have learned is how to respect the diverse opinions and goals of other individuals; and to work, as a responsible and ethical team, within a rigorous system to produce an optimal result. In this, it has also been realized how many people cause themselves to fall short of their own goals, in our contemporary society. There are the "rebellious" ones, such as Lt. Col. Bowman and General Jackson, that have dared to "take the road less traveled by" and pursue truth, integrity, and give the extra effort to make an impact. These are the types of parents and adults we, as dedicated and successful human beings, strive to be. Follow this; for there is no greater reward than being able to know that you, personally, have made a definite, positive impact on the life of even just one person. Abiding this example will serve as a form of appreciation for the amount of blessings we have been given. This combined experience of Robert Land and having the honor of Valedictorian has, very recently, caused me to realize that maybe, uhm, just maybe, well . . . maybe, God and I do see eye-to-eye, after all.

Joseph Conrad once said that "a man's real life is that accorded him in the thoughts of other men by reason of respect or natural love." I am of the belief that all of the students, in one way or another, understand this to be true. To the Graduating Class of 2001, let us all realize one thing. We have made effective use of this academic year. Poise yourselves, briefly, and acknowledge that there is more to be learned in the future. High School does not dictate an end, but rather a begining into a most promising world where knowledge and satisfaction can be found utilizing moral values and proper decision making. Rebellion carries such a negative connotation. Allow me to make it clear that rebellion is not found in the blue hair, chains, and anarchy. Let us go forth delightedly filled with a sense of accomplishment and a firm respect of this Graduation, and Commencement, Ceremony.

Thank You . . .

Master Corporal Daniel Grabacki

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